

# Putting **MEANING** to the Numbers

The Great Falls Public Library made promises to our community when the voters passed the 2023 Library Levy, even under tough economic times. We are proud that we delivered on our promises in less than a year.

- We've improved access by making Library parking free.
- We provide more educational programming and digital resources, including eBooks, language resources, and free online classes for job seekers and local business owners.
- The Library is now open seven days a week, and the Bookmobile provides service six days a week.
- We restarted our homebound service for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- We are providing more educational programming for children and families, including adding more story and toddler time events and expanding early literacy programs.

Great Falls voters approved the 2023 Library Levy by

# 52%

For the past six months, the Library Renegotiation Committee has been working in good faith with members of the City Commission to find ways for the Library to be a good community partner and help the city with its budget shortfalls without sacrificing too many of the promises made when the levy passed.

Losing any mills, regardless of which ones, would be a budget cut, impacting the Great Falls Public Library's ability to fulfill its promises and forcing it to reduce its services.

The City is proposing to take 3.5 mills from the Library for the next four years, cutting the Library's budget by more than \$420,000 annually.

Since the passage of the Library Levy, the \$350,000 Library general fund subsidy has *already* been reallocated to other priorities in the City budget. With the additional cut to Library base funding in the City's proposal...

**...almost HALF** of the value of the Library Levy dollars will be reallocated from the Library budget to other City priorities.

# What We All Lose When the Library Loses More than \$400,000 Each Year

Losing 3.5 mills will delay the implementation of some essential items, cause job losses, and cut services and programming. The community will feel these impacts, and it will begin to undo the excellent work promised with the passage of the mill levy in 2023.

## The impacts will include:

- Delay in updating the disaster response plan.
- Reduce staff training.
- Delay in building repairs and maintenance

## AND many of the following:

- Cut to youth services staff, reducing early literacy outreach, school-age programming, and college and life preparedness for teens. (\$62,000)
- Stop or cap Homebound Service and reduce Book Mobile Service. (\$58,000)
- Close one day a week and cut public services staff. (\$50,000)
- Reduce IT staff, sacrificing training and support for the public, efficiency, and security. (\$106,000)
- Cut both outreach and programming staff, reducing educational programming and community partnerships. (\$133,000)
- Reduce access to eBooks/eAudiobooks. (\$16,000)
- Reduce budget for books, CDs, and DVDs (\$10,000)
- Eliminate contract with Many Rivers Whole Health (\$20,700)

**Taking away 3.5 mills from the Library for the next four years would cut the Library's budget by more than \$420,000 annually.**

