



# VOTE NOV 3

## Library Millage Renewal Proposal

On Nov. 3, 2020, there will be a Library Millage Renewal Proposition on the ballot. This is NOT a new tax. It is a reauthorization of an existing millage at the same rate of 4/10 mill that has been in place since 1994 and ensures the continued operation of our public libraries for the next six years.

- Monies collected are for operational purposes and will be used to continue services, programs & hours at current levels.
- The newly expanded main library in Gaylord will be paid off at the end of 2021.
- The Library Millage is the source of 67% of the Library's annual budget.
- In Michigan, public libraries are 97% locally funded. That is why libraries differ so drastically from one community to another. Our Library relies on local voters for the funds needed to provide the high quality of library services our citizens value.

### Otsego County Library By the Numbers

- The Main Library in Gaylord currently houses 78,591 items. The Johannesburg Branch has 11,809 and the Vanderbilt Branch has 7,141.
- 95,930 items were circulated throughout the county in 2019. 32,272 of which were juvenile items. An additional 23,718 ebooks were checked out.
- In 2019, public computer workstations were used 15,602 times, and our WIFI Internet Access which is available 24/7 in Gaylord, Johannesburg and Vanderbilt, was logged into 25,964 times.
- 273 Youth programs were offered in 2019 with 6,921 attendees.
- COVID-19 seriously disrupted services, but usage is picking up. Between June 22nd & September 15th, we have had 13,864 people enter the library.
- 14,118 county residents have active library cards. 4,903 of which are children and 10,247 are adults.
- During the year 2020, we have circulated 43,893 physical library items, and between January & September 15th 22,288 ebooks have been checked out.
- 67% of our budget comes from our existing 4/10 of a mil which has been in place since 1994. The next largest source of our income is Penal fines which is 18% of our budget.
- Our facilities are currently open 94 hours per week. We employ 4 full time and 12 part-time staff.



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