



**Your North
Ridgeville
library has a
levy on the
March 19
ballot**

What is the North Ridgeville library levy?

The levy on the March 19 ballot, Issue 8, is a **renewal** and will not raise your taxes.

The library has this same levy on the ballot every five years. The ask has not changed in the past 15 years; it was and still is 1.91 mill. This amount is divided amongst all North Ridgeville households. As there are more homes built each year, the actual amount of tax paid per homeowner has gone down.

What will this levy cost me as a homeowner in North Ridgeville?

In 2014, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 paid \$55.75 per year. In 2019 it cost that same owner \$47.91 per year and in 2024 it will cost the owner \$39.00.

Lorain Public Library System is fiscally responsible. We are able to operate efficiently by applying for grants and partnering with other community entities to provide the best and latest services and resources the residents deserve without asking for more.

What does this funding mean for the library?

These funds make up over 85% of the operating revenues for the North Ridgeville branch and are essential in maintaining the current level of service.

What does "operating revenue" mean? Essentially everything you see during a visit:

- Maintenance and renovation of the building and grounds – funds from past levies paid to recently replace the 20-year-old roof
- Maintaining and growing the collection of books and other loaned items
- Programs and program supplies for all ages
- Staffing; the branch has seven full-time and nine part-time employees
- Upgraded computers and printers as technology advances
- Enhanced services and resources as community needs change – such as the recent additions of a dedicated Teen Space, a Create Space, increased meeting room and tutoring space and enhanced passport services, all made possible by past levy funds

North Ridgeville is part of a library system. Will my taxes be spent for other branches?

By law, the funds raised in North Ridgeville must stay in North Ridgeville.

Do people really use the library anymore?

Yes.

Between Dec. 2022 and Nov. 2023, the North Ridgeville Branch loaned 260,988 items.

The North Ridgeville library has had over 450,000 visitors since the last levy (450,172 visitors Jan. 2019 through Nov. 2023).

In the 1980s, the North Ridgeville Branch offered six story time sessions during winter quarter. By the end of the '90s that had increased to 27 story times offered during winter quarter. During the winter quarter of 2022 we offered 74 story times.

What would happen if the levy fails?

Drastic cuts would have to be made. Due to having to reduce staff, these cuts would include:

- ALL library programs would be eliminated, including all story times.
- Sunday, some evening and some morning hours would be eliminated.
- Cutting the library materials budget by about 75% resulting in fewer purchases of new materials.
- Drive-thru window service would be eliminated.
- Passport services would be eliminated.
- Reduced hours would result in reduced access to free community meeting rooms, tutor rooms, the Teen Space and Create Space.
- Visits to schools, senior living facilities and HOAs would cease.
- Even with these cuts, the North Ridgeville Branch budget would have deficits over the five-year period from 2025 to 2029, and additional cuts would have to be identified by the Library Board of Trustees.

Imagine the cuts you'd have to make within your own household without 85% of your current income.