

# Building Renovation Fact Sheet

Information about proposed renovation to the library building.

On November 3, voters in Berkeley will be asked to consider an advisory referendum for the Village of Berkeley to issue \$4 million in bonds to renovate the existing library. This is the first such request for new funding in the library's 80 year history.

The library building opened to the public in 1972. The building and its systems are deteriorating and in need of extensive repair, replacement, and updating to meet current building codes. The Library Board completed a facility assessment in July 2020 which indicated that while well maintained, major systems are at or nearing end of life and that significant investment would be required to address updating, meeting building codes, and bringing the facility into ADA compliance.

The library has conducted several rounds of community surveying and has continued to work with a qualified architect to create a plan to address problems identified in the facility assessment and reconfigure library space to better reflect the community's needs.



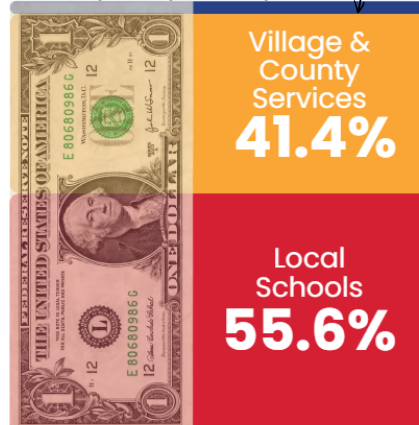
## Timeline To Date

- 2019** • **Condition Assessment**  
"What needs replaced?" and "What doesn't work for the public?"
- 2022** • **Accessibility Improvements**  
ADA compliance: new restrooms, service desks, drinking fountains.
- 2023** • **Network Update**  
Fiber internet, building wired, WIFI access points & server replaced.
- 2024** • **2025-2029 Strategic Plan**  
Developed by library, board, and community.
- 2026** • **Fire Alarm Replacement**  
Entire alarm and call system replaced, building rewired.
- 2026** • **Critical Infrastructure Updates**  
Electrical service equipment replaced, new sanitary line.
- 2026** • **November 3, 2026**  
Advisory referendum on ballot.

## Tax Impact

Depending on where you live in Berkeley, the library currently makes up around 3% of your overall tax bill. After bonding, the library would make up between 4% and 5% of your overall tax bill.

*Berkeley Library, currently +/- 3%*

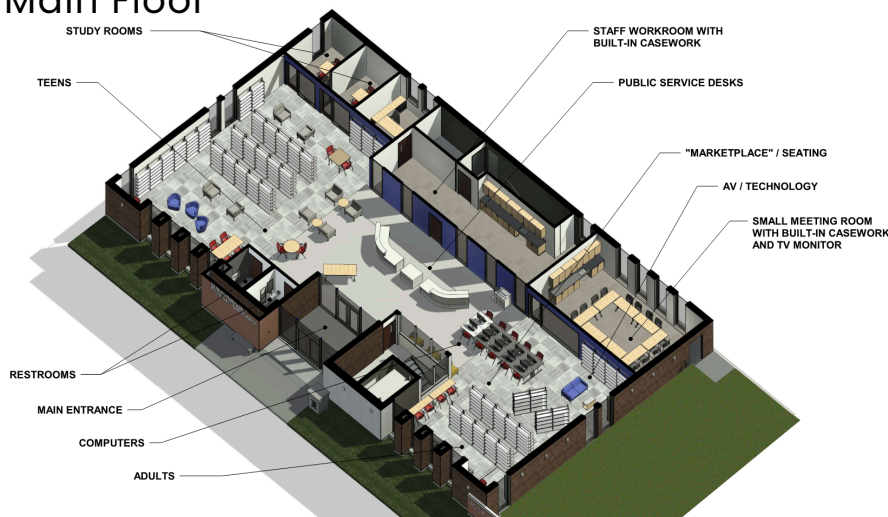


Property taxes vary greatly depending on a variety of factors including exceptions and taxing districts. For a \$275,000 home the estimated tax impact of this bonding to the average homeowner would be approximately \$13.50 a month.

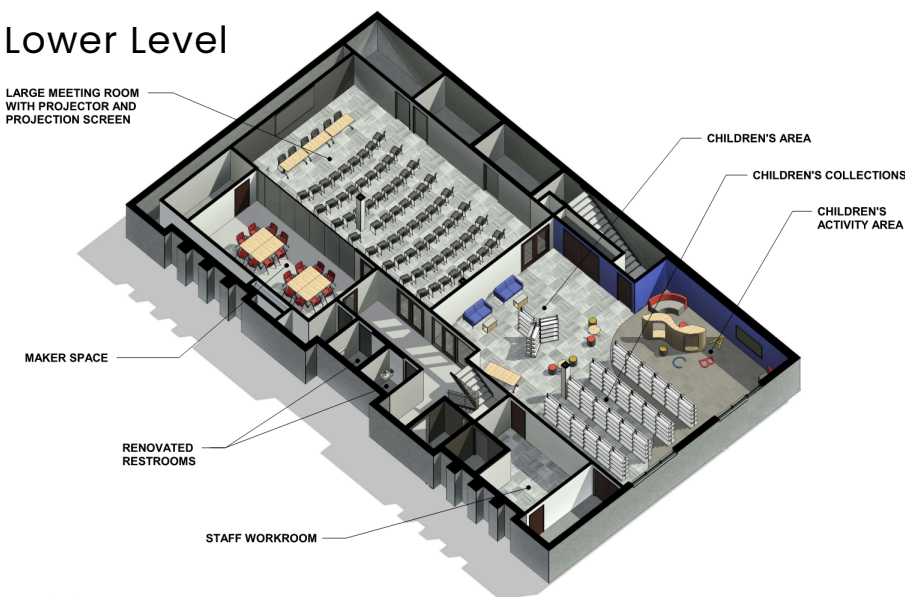
The library expects to cover approximately 15% of the total \$4.5M project cost using state grants, its capital fund, and other funding sources.

# Proposed Renovation Features

## Main Floor



## Lower Level



While final plans are now being developed, features of the proposed building renovation are planned to include:

- Replacement of existing end-of-life roof
- New roof fascia, sheltered entry, and exterior site lighting
- Replacement of original exterior windows and entry doors
- New larger water service
- Fire sprinkler system added to both floors
- Consistent, reliable HVAC systems
- Remodeled lower level public restrooms
- Doubling of small group/private study spaces
- Additional meeting room for programs and community use
- Separate, defined space for children to learn and explore
- Better spaces for tweens/teens
- Improved and flexible community arts and crafts workshop
- New, responsive lighting systems throughout
- Improvements to infrastructure and life safety systems
- Abatement of building materials throughout

# Library Facts and Figures

## Annual Use

2,800+ hours open to the public  
25,000+ annual visits  
23,000+ items checked out  
5,700+ uses of public computers  
7,000+ inquiries answered  
200+ programs offered  
2,000+ attendees at library programs  
1,500+ take-home kits and outreach bags  
5,000+ uses of building WiFi  
200+ passport applications processed  
100+ notary public transactions  
80+ home deliveries

## Official Ballot Wording

*"This is an advisory and non-binding referendum question. Should the Village of Berkeley, Cook County, Illinois issue bonds on behalf of the Berkeley Public Library in the amount of \$4,000,000 to renovate, repair, and equip the library building for the purpose thereof at 1637 N. Taft Avenue?"*



[www.berkeleypl.org/looking-forward](http://www.berkeleypl.org/looking-forward)

Want more images of a renovated Berkeley Public Library, an expanded historic timeline, and an expanded FAQ? Visit the 'Looking Forward' section of our website!

