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## April 7 Referendum for Library Expansion

### *Poll Results Lead to Ballot Question*

The Plainfield Public Library District Board of Trustees voted on Monday, January 26 to place the Library's expansion plan referendum on the April 7 ballot. Referring to polls of registered voters in July, December and January, each with over 60% support for placing the referendum on the ballot in April, Board President Sharon Kinley said, "This decision is not lightly made. We've polled our district three times. Every computer [at the library] is filled tonight. The need is great and now it's up to the community."

Under development since 2006, the planning timeline for library expansion targeted a 2009 referendum for more than two years. Committed to a no-frills plan of well-built libraries that meets the needs of the community for years to come, the Board of Trustees undertook the additional polling to ensure that the plan and its timeline were still appropriate.

Trustee Dr. Patricia Miller asked, "If we wait a year [to place it on the

ballot], do we let our voters down by not doing what the community wants? We don't know what will come in a year. All we can do is let the community decide, let the voters decide."

By placing the referendum question on the ballot for the spring 2009 election, the Library's Board of Trustees have left it up to you, the voters.

For an increase of \$15 per month for a home valued at \$315,000, the median home value in the Village of Plainfield, residents would enjoy four times the space and twice the services available at the Plainfield Public Library today. About \$9 of the \$15 per month cost would fund the construction and equipping of the new libraries, with the remaining \$6 supporting operations— everything from programs to power to personnel.

For more detailed information on the plan, visit the Library's website at [www.plainfield.lib.il.us](http://www.plainfield.lib.il.us) or [www.plainfieldlibrarydirector.blogspot.com](http://www.plainfieldlibrarydirector.blogspot.com).

# EXPANSION PLAN – FAQs



## Why does Plainfield need such a big library expansion? The Village of Plainfield isn't that big.

The Library District serves more than 66,000 today. The current building was designed to serve 25,000. The Village of Plainfield comprises only 56% of the Library District. The other 44% reside in the part of the Village of Bolingbrook that is in Wheatland Township, the part of the Village of Romeoville that is in Plainfield Township, unincorporated Wheatland Township and unincorporated Plainfield Township. District boundaries stretch from north of Boughton Road on the far east side of the district to just west of Arbeiter Road in Kendall County between Route 126 and Caton Farm Road. It is estimated that the Library District will serve more than 124,000 by 2030. This plan builds in growth to serve a population of up to 100,000.

## What changes will be made to the downtown library?

The expansion plan calls for a nearly 50,000 square foot addition to the downtown library, enveloping the east, north and most of the west sides of the building. The entire east wall and a small portion of the existing library will be demolished to allow for a larger addition. The exterior of the original 1941 building will be preserved. The design of the addition and new façade is in keeping with the architecture of both the original library building and downtown Plainfield. The plan balances utilization of the existing library with the creation of new, functional library space. It includes entrances to both the building and parking lot on Route 59 and Illinois Street.

## Where will the branch be located? Why is that the right location?

The site for the second library has not yet been selected. With the recommendations of the Site Feasibility Committee and the slowdown in growth in the western portion of the district, the Board of Trustees is focused on sites on the north end of the district, roughly between 111th Street and 135th Street to the north and south and Norman-

town Road to Lilly Cache Creek to the east and west. The largest existing population that is furthest from the current library is in the Bolingbrook section of the Library District. However, future growth is anticipated to be in the western portion of the district and the Library anticipates eventually having a west side facility in 15-20 years. The expansion plan proposed here is anticipated to accommodate the needs of the Library District for 12-15 years.

## How often has the Library District requested additional funds from residents?

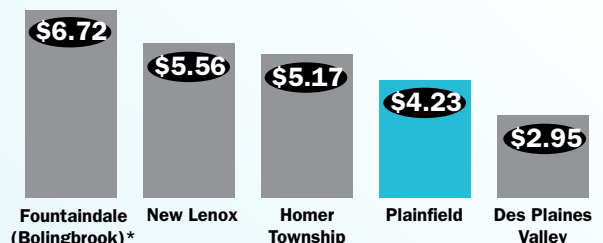
Since its creation in 1925, the Library has requested additional funds from the residents only three times: a 1989 building bond referendum, a 1990 building bond referendum, and a 1993 operating rate increase. The 1990 building bond referendum was the only one of the three to pass.

## How does our library's funding compare to other area libraries?

The Plainfield Public Library District ranks in the bottom third for funding per capita statewide. Libraries in the suburban Chicago area spend an average of \$7.34 per resident per month on library service.

### Total Spending by Library District

Total Spending Per Resident Per Month, Including Bonds



\*prior to 2008 building referendum

## What is the tax impact of this plan?

The total cost of the planned expanded facilities and services is a tax rate increase of 0.1926%, with 0.1163% for Alternate Revenue Bonds and 0.0763% for operations. This will be offset by the maturation of the existing bonds, decreasing the library's existing tax rate by 0.0120% in 2010. If it passes, the property tax increase will not appear on tax bills until 2010. The net increase to the library's tax rate will be 0.1806%.

Approximate Home Market 2007 Value	Equalized Assessed ** Valuation* ("EAV")	Net Rate Increase	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase	Daily Increase
\$150,000	\$50,000	0.18060	\$80.37	\$6.70	\$0.22
\$200,000	\$66,667	0.18060	\$110.47	\$9.21	\$0.30
\$250,000	\$83,333	0.18060	\$140.57	\$11.71	\$0.39
\$300,000	\$100,000	0.18060	\$170.67	\$14.22	\$0.47
\$315,000*	\$105,000	0.18060	\$179.70	\$14.97	\$0.49
\$350,000	\$116,667	0.18060	\$200.77	\$16.73	\$0.55
\$400,000	\$133,333	0.18060	\$230.87	\$19.24	\$0.63
\$450,000	\$150,000	0.18060	\$260.97	\$21.75	\$0.71
\$500,000	\$166,667	0.18060	\$291.07	\$24.26	\$0.80

\*Average home in Plainfield.

\*\*EAV can either be found on the most recent tax bill or estimated as one-third of fair market value.

Alternatively, the annual cost of the referendum can be estimated by multiplying the Library's levy on the most recent tax bill by 120%.

## Will this one cost increase cover all costs of the plan?

Yes, the estimated \$15 per month increase for the average homeowner in Plainfield (\$315,000 home value), will pay for the construction, furnishing, equipping and operating of the two libraries proposed in the expansion plan. About \$9 per month is anticipated to be used to pay off the Alternate Revenue Bonds for construction and \$6 for the operation of the facilities.

## Is money spent on libraries a good investment?

In 2008, the community received a return on investment of \$3 in library service for every \$1 invested. As a community infrastructure improvement, this plan will help maintain your property value. It will create jobs: construction jobs and library jobs to help stimulate our local economy.

## What are the benefits of the expansion plan?

The community will benefit by having a library that meets today's needs with room to grow for the next 12-15 years. No more wait lists for programs and shorter waits for popular items. The plan includes:

- **Increased collections** – Your new libraries will open with twice as many books and materials as the current facility, with room to grow.
- **Increased programming for all ages** – These facilities will provide attractive, comfortable, accessible space to conduct community programming for all ages and interests that meets demand.

- **More public computers** – Your new libraries will double the number of computers for the public, as well as provide a larger computer classroom at each location where free computer instruction classes can expand.
- **Improved accessibility** – Your new libraries will meet or exceed modern accessibility standards with elevators, convenient parking, an accessible staff entrance, etc.
- **Community support** – Your new libraries will provide meeting spaces for community groups and increased ability to support small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Cultural programs and events in Plainfield** – Partnering with the Plainfield Township Park District and other community organizations, the cultural programs and events you want to enjoy closer to home will have a venue in the downtown library's auditorium.
- **More jobs** – Building your new libraries will create many construction jobs during the 18-24 month building process and over 50 permanent library positions.



## Library Hours

### Monday through Thursday

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

### Friday and Saturday

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### Sunday (Sept. through May)

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

## Contact Us

Information/Registration 815-436-6639  
Adult Reference 815-327-2515  
Youth Services 815-439-2877  
Outreach 815-327-2524  
Business Office 815-439-2872  
Hearing Impaired TDD 815-439-2879

**Library Director** Julie Milavec

### Board of Trustees

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# Why Now?

This is a fiscally responsible time to build because:

- Tax impact would not be realized until June 2010.
- Interest rates are at a 50-year low.
- Prices of commodities like structural steel, aluminum and petroleum-based products are down, lowering project costs.
- Construction industry professionals indicate overall building costs in 2009 are 7-15% lower in 2009 than previous years.
- Current space is utilized to capacity, limiting the Library's ability to offer new titles and programs.
- Growing maintenance problems that reduce funds available for library materials and operations:
  - Obsolete HVAC system
  - Deteriorating window frames
  - Roof requires replacement



## Voter Information on Plainfield TV

Look for a panel discussion on the expansion plan on Plainfield Community Cable Channel 6 or [www.plainfieldtv.com](http://www.plainfieldtv.com). Also available are interviews and candidate information for local elections. Thank you to Plainfield Television Group for making this available to the community!

*Imagine more to explore. Imagine programs for all ages. Imagine more access from home. Imagine more solutions for your business. Imagine a library beyond words. Imagine more reasons to visit. Imagine learning about new things. Imagine access to what you need when you need it. Imagine more.*



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Plainfield, IL 60544

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