



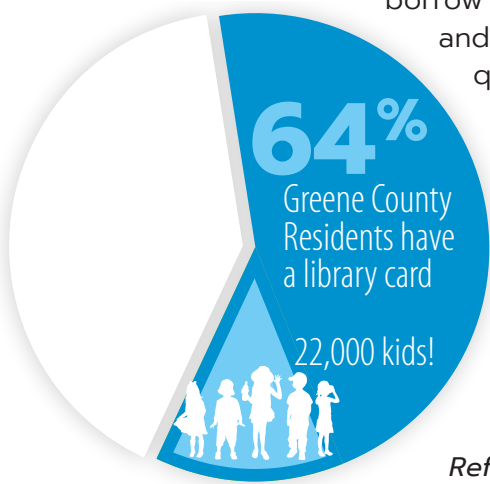
# November 2025 Levy FAQs

## What is the levy for Greene County Public Library (GCPL)?

Greene County Public Library's levy on the November 4th, 2025, ballot is a 1-mill levy to fund library materials, operations, programs, and services for Greene County residents.

## Why is GCPL important to our Greene County communities?

64% of Greene County's citizens have Library cards – more than 100,000 people, including over 22,000 children. Library users borrow more than 2.5 million items annually, and digital circulation has nearly quadrupled in the last ten years.



Citizens of all ages use our public computers and internet to find jobs, use data, and do schoolwork. Homebound, elderly, and disabled residents depend on our book delivery service. Tens of thousands of children use our Library every year for reading programs and other educational opportunities.

Reference: DDN article, May 2022: [Public Libraries may be winning the Streaming Wars](#)

## How much more would residents pay with this levy?

The levy costs less than \$3 a month to property owners with \$100,000 of county auditor appraised property value.

## How many years is this levy for?

This levy is for ten years. A ten-year levy creates stability and allows for thrifty, prudent long-term planning. This kind of careful, responsible planning has kept our community libraries open and meeting the needs of our growing community for over 150 years. The new levy will continue that funding at the same purchasing power level we had in 2014: the \$3 a month just makes up for inflation and reductions in State funding.

GCPL is busier than ever – and our cardholders, children's programs, and other services continue to grow. The levy would give GCPL the funding it needs to maintain current services at the current level for the next ten years.

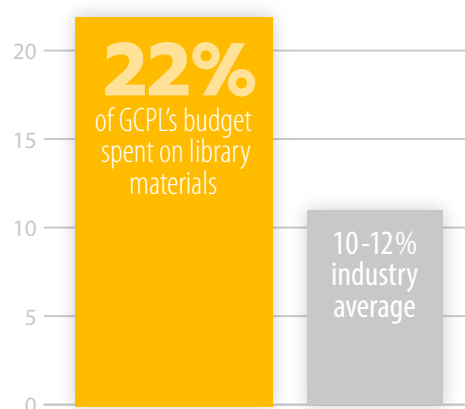
## Can we raise late fees or charge for programs to make up the difference?

Fines and fees make up less than 1% of our funding. Our patrons do a great job of returning things on time, and we are grateful for that. Raising fines and fees would not bring in much additional money, but would make it harder for lower income families and people on fixed incomes who need the lifelong learning and opportunity the Library provides to use the service.

## How much of the budget is spent on books, movies, and other items for the public?

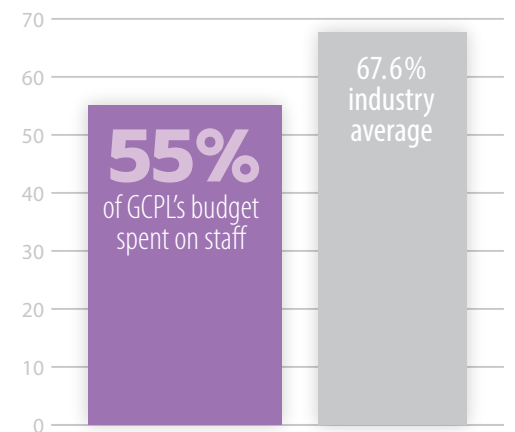
GCPL spends more than 22% of its total budget on library materials, which is higher than historic industry standards. GCPL spends this money carefully based on what customers ask us for. We invest back into Greene County by buying hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of books and other materials from Greene County stores. GCPL further stretches your dollars through partnerships with other library systems to provide Greene County residents books and more from around the state and country.

Source: LJ 2023 Budget Survey



## How much does GCPL spend on salaries and benefits?

The Library spends 55% on staff, which is less than industry standard. We save money through careful partnerships, including a partnership for our health insurance that dramatically cut back on health insurance increases. These partnerships helped to keep the Library's costs manageable, and let us keep our services strong for the public for more than ten years without asking for additional support.



Source: Statista, per capita operating expenditures of public libraries in the United States for fiscal years 1995 to 2019, by expenditure type.

## What about the Library facilities?

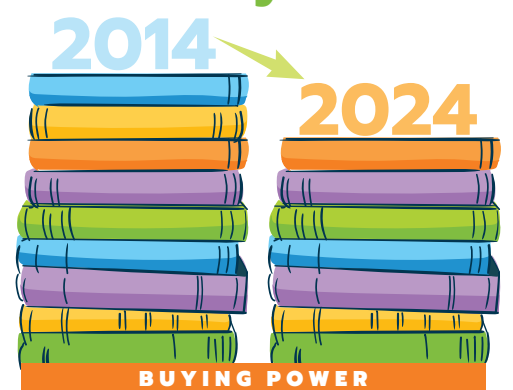
GCPL has carefully saved and reinvested in our communities' library buildings. Rather than build expensive new facilities, GCPL preserved and gave new life to the public's investment in our existing buildings by remodeling each of them – one at a time – over the last 18 years. GCPL works closely with the local communities that own our local buildings to manage costs. GCPL owns only two buildings: the Xenia Community Library and a Service Center located on Kinsey Road.

## What about the State's funding for libraries?

GCPL gets about 40% of its funding from the State. GCPL is grateful for that support, but it has not kept up with inflation. Also, GCPL will get \$300,000 less from the State than last year under the new State Budget. This is less than the Library received from the State in the year 2000. Between 2000 and 2025, inflation went up over 64% according to Smartasset.com, so the same amount of money only buys 46% of what it did back then. We have to restore that purchasing power if we are to keep our current services going.

## When was the last levy for Greene County Public Library?

GCPL has not asked local taxpayers to approve any additional funding in more than eleven years. In 2014, voters approved a renewal of a 1-mill levy, plus a small increase (0.9 mill). This vote gives us a fixed dollar amount and does not increase as property values increase.



## What happens if the levy passes?

If the levy passes, our Library can maintain services at our current levels: keep programs for children to help them learn to read and succeed in school; continue services to homebound, elderly and disabled residents; update books, online databases, and more; keep our community libraries open; and maintain the staff needed to help and serve our community.

## What happens if the levy fails?

Our Library will have to cut staff, close locations, reduce hours, decrease programs and services, and limit new library materials. Additional, future cuts likely will follow if the State reduces funding again as it did in the current budget.



Still have questions about the levy?  
Find out more at **GreeneLibrary.info** or by asking us!