

## **Millstadt Library District Annexation Referendum and New Millstadt Library Go Hand in Hand**

We've been hard at work at the Millstadt Library and in our committees to keep moving forward with our new library project. We've also been working especially hard to get out into our community and talk about our project with you.

Hopefully by now you've seen and participated in our survey that was shared in late January, either online or in person. This important survey is helping us to gain more information and feedback about your wants and needs as we continue throughout our referendum and new building processes. We'll be sharing our results with everyone in March on a number of platforms.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated money and their time! We're still remaining hopeful for an additional grant or some incredibly wealthy and generous donors - but we also understand the most realistic way to meet our deadline for funding will be through the annexation referendum. The referendum provides two key components for our library community:

- Serving everyone in Millstadt
- Having enough funds to secure a loan to help us build a new library our entire community can use and be proud of

We know that some of you probably still have questions about what this referendum means, so let's help clarify things.

### **How does a "yes" vote on the library referendum affect residents inside the Village of Millstadt limits?**

It doesn't affect you at all. You already pay a .0015 mill rate for the Millstadt Library District on your taxes. (A mill rate is one-thousandth of a dollar, and in property tax terms, is equal to \$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of assessment.)

### **How does it affect residents outside the village limits, but living inside Millstadt District 160 and unserved by a neighboring library?**

- It means the ability to gain full access to your local library and all of its resources - plus those of the more than 500 libraries across Illinois we are connected with.

- An ask for a tax increase to support additional, new library members and services and materials for them.

*We've had the following question a lot:*

**Do I have to pay for any other taxes? Pay more taxes for village services? Will I be a part of the Village of Millstadt?**

No. All you're adding to your yearly taxes is the amount from the Millstadt Library District - and these taxes support something you and your family will be able to use.

You will not be taxed for any village services and will not be annexed into the Village of Millstadt. That is a completely different process and one that the library couldn't do even if we wanted to.

**Why is the library asking to raise taxes for residents outside the village limits?**

We understand that any ask for a tax increase is important. Please know that we would not be asking without careful consideration and a sincere belief that this is the most beneficial move for everyone in our community.

We have talked to several financial advisors and library experts and they all agree this endeavor is the best way to meet our goal of serving everyone in our community - and our goal of building a new library.

If you have more questions about the annexation referendum, we have more answers! Please visit our FAQ page at <http://www.millstadt-library.org/annexationref-faqs>.

If you have more questions about our new Millstadt Library, how you can get involved, or anything else about your library and how it can help you, please contact us by stopping by, visiting our website, <http://www.millstadt-library.org>, calling us at 1-618-476-1887 or emailing us at [millstadtlib@gmail.com](mailto:millstadtlib@gmail.com).