

June 2022



DISTRICT

115 West Laurel
Millstadt, IL 62260
618-476-1887

Dear Millstadt Library District Non-Resident Patron,

First and foremost, we want to thank you for your support and patronage of your Millstadt Library. Our patrons are the reason we do what we do and why we strive to offer more services and programs, add more items to our collections, and push the boundaries of what we think of when we hear the word “library.”

As a public library in the state of Illinois, we are allowed to offer the purchase of a non-resident card to patrons who do not live within the district limits of the Millstadt Library and pay taxes toward the costs of running and maintaining the Millstadt Library. By state laws, we are allowed to charge for a library card in one of two ways,

1) General Mathematical Formula

- a. The library divides its total local property tax revenue (excluding state and federal funds) by the local population (using the most recent federal census information available). This number is multiplied by the average number of persons per local household (again, using the most recent federal census data). This is the fee charged to all nonresidents when purchasing a library card.

2) Tax Bill Method

- a. For Home/Property Owners: The library’s tax rate is multiplied with the valuation of the nonresident’s property assessment. The nonresident must bring their most recent tax bill then this method is used. When this method is chosen, each nonresident card sold must be individually recalculated.
- b. For Renters: The library will either charge a minimum of 15 percent of the monthly rent as the annual nonresident fee, or devise its own formula. The local formula takes into account the average local rent of the general community of the public library, property tax rate, and the nonresident fee for residential homeowners.

The Millstadt Library has always used the General Mathematical Formula and by law, it must reevaluate the cost each year. Since June 2020, the cost of a Non-Resident card was \$95. According to this formula, the new cost in 2022 would have been around \$102. We anticipate these numbers will increase each year.

During the last year, we attempted a School District Annexation Referendum that would annex our Non-Resident neighbors, allowing the non-resident fees to be added automatically into our patrons’ taxes. Through our research, we found that the majority of our patrons were paying more for their library cards than they would on their taxes. Our board discussed and voted on this issue at our June 8 board meeting, before the vote on the referendum on June 28 that did not pass.

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We understand that some of our current non-resident patrons have higher card rates than what our prior method would have cost, and we apologize for any inconvenience this might bring to you and your family.

As a library, it is our goal to provide equitable services to all of our patrons and that means providing access to all of our services and collections at a similar cost to everyone – inside and outside of the current district limits.

Please remember that the library provides free access to everyone to

- Computers
- 24/7 WIFI
- Reference and General Help
- Programs and Events
- Fax, copies, and printing (at a small cost)

Paid services include

- Access to 17,000+ in-house materials including Books, DVDs, Audio Books, and CDs
- Access to 500+ libraries and their items
- Access to the CloudLibrary and its thousands of eBooks and online Audio Books
- ExploreMore Illinois, a program that provides discounts to Illinois attractions with your library card
- Biblio+, an ad-free streaming service for TV shows, movies, and documentaries
- GotResumeBuilder, a free resume builder

Thank you again for being a part of your Millstadt Library District. We hope we can continue to rely on you and your support and please reach out to us for any and all questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Millstadt Library District
Library Board

Nichole Lauko
Director

To find more information about Illinois Library Non-Resident Card laws and regulations, please visit <http://www.millstadt-library.org/non-resident-card>
<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/libraries/nonresident.html>