

Geneva Township Library Service Ballot Question

Frequently Asked Questions | November 3, 2026 General Election

Geneva Township, not Van Buren District Library, is placing a five-year library service contract funding proposal on the November ballot. VBDL is providing factual information with the Township's permission.

What are Geneva Township voters being asked?

Geneva Township is asking its residents whether the Township may levy a dedicated property tax of up to 1.4767 mills for five years to fund continued service from Van Buren District Library (VBDL). The rate equals the current maximum total millage rate authorized to support VBDL within the Library District's service area.

Who placed this question on the ballot?

Geneva Township government is placing the question on the November 3, 2026 ballot. VBDL did not propose or place this question on the ballot. With the Township's permission, VBDL is providing factual information about the library services the proposal would fund, and what would occur under either election outcome.

Why is this question on the ballot now?

Geneva Township is outside VBDL's tax-supported service area. Under a formal agreement dating back to 1997, the Township has paid VBDL a flat \$1,000 annual fee for full library services for all Township residents. The arrangement may have existed informally before 1997. On November 20, 2025, the VBDL Board voted to end that arrangement because it no longer provided an equitable or financially sustainable contribution compared with the property taxes paid by residents of the Library District.

Are Geneva Township residents receiving library service now?

Yes. VBDL's Board extended the existing service arrangement through December 31, 2026 after Geneva Township agreed to place a library funding question before voters. Geneva Township library cards and services remain active through that date.

What is a mill?

One mill equals \$1 of taxes for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. At the maximum rate of 1.4767 mills, the annual calculation is: $\text{taxable value} \div 1,000 \times 1.4767$. Taxable value is listed on a property tax statement or bill and is generally different from a home's sales price or true cash value. For residential properties, the taxable value is usually about half of a home's true cash value.

What could the millage cost a homeowner?

The proposal would authorize a rate of up to 1.4767 mills. The examples below show the annual amount at the full authorized rate. A property owner should use the taxable value shown on the property's tax statement or bill for what the library millage tax rate would cost them annually.

True Cash Value	Taxable Value	Annual Tax at 1.4767 mills
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$73.84
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$110.75
\$159,000*	\$79,500	\$117.40

**This is the average true cash value of a home in Geneva Township according to the 2026 Van Buren County Equalization Report.*

\$200,000	\$100,000	\$147.67
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The ballot question states the library tax rate “would be up to 1.4767 mills.” Could the tax rate be less?

Yes. The Van Buren District Library Board intends to levy less than the maximum rate for at least the next several years, and possibly longer. For this tax year, the Library Board voted to levy a rate of 1.2000 mills. Should this ballot question be approved by the residents of Geneva Township, the Library Board will communicate the levied rate to Geneva Township, which would then assess the same rate for properties within the Township. At 1.2000 mills, the library millage would cost Geneva Township homeowners the following annually:

True Cash Value	Taxable Value	Annual Tax at 1.2000 mills
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$60.00
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$90.00
\$159,000*	\$79,500	\$95.40

**This is the average true cash value of a home in Geneva Township according to the Van Buren County 2026 Equalization Report.*

\$200,000	\$100,000	\$120.00
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What would happen if the proposal is approved?

Geneva Township and VBDL would enter into a new service agreement funded by the dedicated Township library millage. Geneva Township residents would continue receiving full VBDL services after December 31, 2026, without interruption.

What library services would continue if the proposal is approved?

Geneva Township residents would continue to receive the same range of services available to VBDL service area residents, including:

- borrowing at all seven VBDL locations including:
 - books, audiobooks, and movies;
 - remote access to eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, and streaming services such as hoopla and Kanopy;
 - mobile Internet hotspots; public access computers and Wi-Fi;
 - research and learning databases such as Transparent Language and Ancestry.com;
 - access to library events, classes and programs for all ages;
 - interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing at participating libraries, subject to the policies of those libraries.

What would happen if the proposal is not approved?

VBDL service for Geneva Township residents would end after December 31, 2026. Beginning January 1, 2027, Geneva Township residents would no longer be eligible for a VBDL resident card or have access to services that require an active VBDL card, including physical borrowing, digital collections, online databases, and mobile Internet hotspot checkout. Materials currently on loan from the library would still need to be returned by their due dates.

Who may vote on this proposal, and when is the election?

The question will be decided by registered voters of Geneva Township at the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 general election. Voting, registration, absentee-ballot and polling-place information is available from the Geneva Township Clerk or at Michigan.gov/Vote.

What is the language of the question which will appear on the November 3, 2026 ballot?

Shall Geneva Township impose an increase of up to 1.4767 mills (\$1.4767 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes and levy it for 5 years (2026 through 2030 inclusive) and pay it over to the Van Buren District Library for the purpose of funding library services; which 1.4767 mill increase will raise an estimated \$218,881 in the first year that the millage is levied?

Yes []

No []

Where can I get more information?

For questions about the election, ballot language, voting, or the Township's library millage ballot question, please contact the Geneva Township Clerk. For questions about VBDL services or what would happen under either election outcome, please contact Van Buren District Library at 269-423-4771 or at info@vbdl.org.