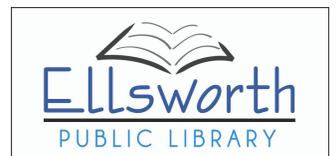


LIBRARY REFERENDUM FACTS

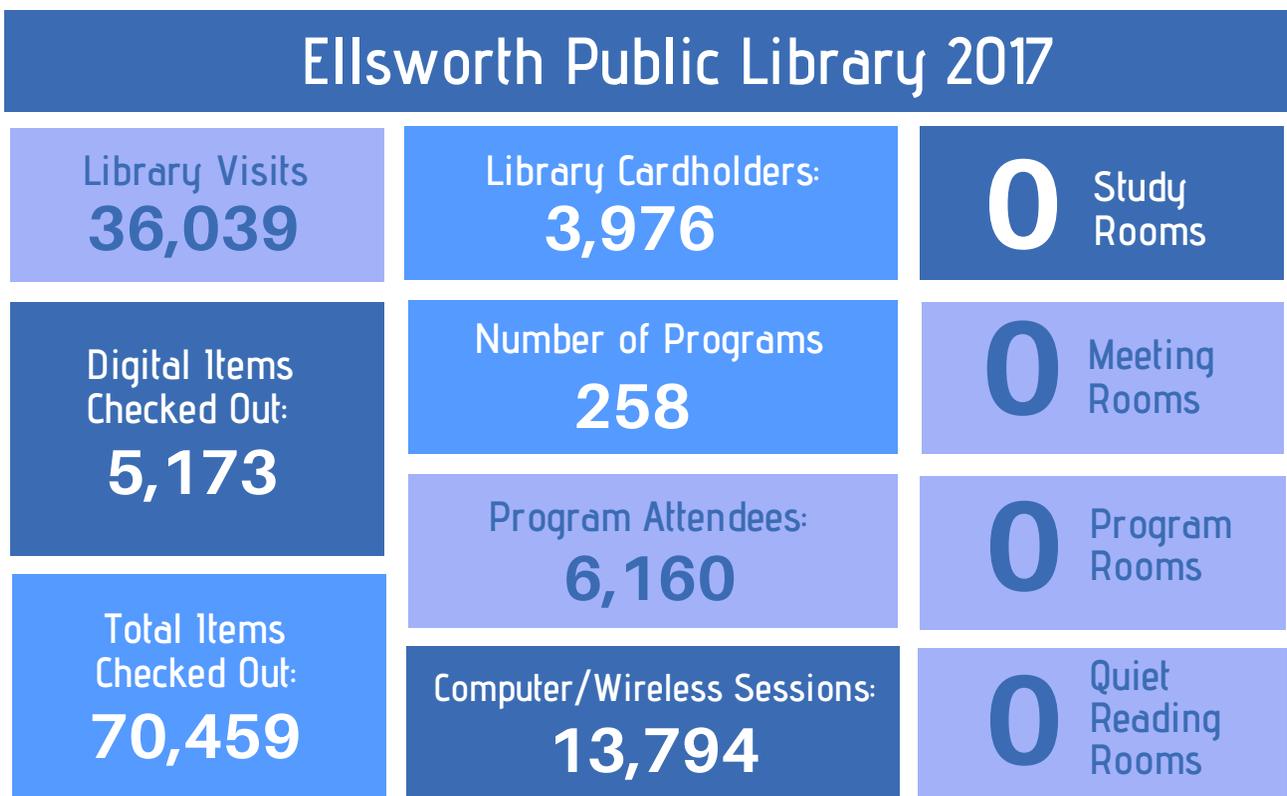


November 6, 2018 Library Ballot question

Wording for the library building referendum will read as follows:

“Do you support the Village of Ellsworth borrowing up to \$3,000,000 (\$3 million dollars) dollars to create additional Public Library space in the Village?”

This a non-binding, advisory referendum question only. A “Yes” vote indicates that you support the Village of Ellsworth incurring debt not to exceed \$3,000,000 to acquire additional space for the Ellsworth Public Library. The effect of a “No” vote indicates that you do not support the Village of Ellsworth incurring debt not to exceed \$3,000,000 to acquire additional space for the Ellsworth Public Library.



Size of Ellsworth Public Library compared to other public libraries in the area:

Library Name	Municipal Population	Circulation	Building Square Feet
Plum City	599	22,037	3,000
Elmwood	817	12,367	3,000
Woodville	1,326	24,401	4,416
Spring Valley	1,352	22,182	4,500
Roberts	1,676	64,377	7,260
Hammond	1,872	53,861	2,300
Ellsworth	3,284	70,459	2,880
Baldwin	3,950	56,549	7,345
Prescott	4,258	48,882	6,556
River Falls	15,000	298,846	36,000

Project Cost

The estimated tax impact of the proposed \$3 million bond measure will be \$174 annually or about \$3.35 a week for a \$150,00 home.

For more information please visit our website at: www.ellsworthlibrary.org

Additional Information

What will the new library cost, and how will the cost impact property taxes?

An engineering assessment has been conducted that indicates renovation of a particular existing building on Main Street for public library use would cost up to \$5 million. This includes the updates needed to bring the building up to current life safety building codes, accessibility requirements, and to address several deferred maintenance aspects. The estimated increase on current property taxes would be \$174 annually (about \$3.35 per week) on a \$150,000 home.

What size is the proposed library?

The proposed library would have 12,500 square feet on a main level to be used for daily operations, with an additional 4,800 square feet on a lower level to be used for meeting room and program space. This fits the Indianhead Federated Library System's 2012 recommendation for a facility to meet the projected space need of between 13,000-16,222 square feet.

Can the library share meeting space with other organizations in Ellsworth?

The library is always open to partnering with community organizations and sharing resources. However, sharing space is not a long-term solution to the undersized library building and there are very few shareable spaces available in the community.

Scheduling programs offsite is not efficient use of staff time or library resources. Many library staffers juggle a combination of serving at the circulation desk along with assisting with programs and technology needs. In addition, library programs are intended to expose children, teens and adults to the scope of library resources available to them and to assist them in using those resources. This is much more difficult if events and classes are held offsite. In a larger facility, meeting spaces would be available to the community when not in use by the library.

Can the current building be expanded?

To expand the current facility would require acquisition of adjacent properties. Keeping daily operations on a single story is the most effective operations model. Code and ADA requirements would need to be met and parking would need to be addressed.

Why not choose to build a new facility?

Construction of a new facility would provide more efficient use of space and would be designed with flexibility in spaces and plans for future expansion. However, new construction can be more costly than remodeling and it is difficult to find locations that are accessible in town and appropriate for a library space.

Were other building sites considered?

In 2013, the Ellsworth Public Library Building/Space Committee visited and evaluated ten possible building sites, including Crossing Meadows, the old junior high school building, a spot on Midway, the bottling works, Summit Park and others. A new building in Crossing Meadows and renovation of an existing building on Main Street received the highest marks. Crossing Meadows has ample space, but is unfortunately not in a central location that is easily accessible for those without a motor vehicle. The existing building on Main Street has sufficient space for one-story daily operations, with program and meeting room space on a separate floor. It is located on a well-traveled road with good onsite parking.

Which library classes and events are people turned away from?

Participation in some of the library's programs is capped at 12 or 15 people due to the small spaces where the programs take place. Other programs, specifically summer performers and holiday storytimes, draw large crowds and end up being standing room only. While people are not turned away from these programs, some opt not to participate once they see the lack of accommodation.

Will people transition to electronic media and away from print and physical materials?

The use of public libraries has increased dramatically over the last 15 years, even though many predicted that the increased availability of internet access would make libraries obsolete. Although patrons can now download books, music, and movies from their own devices, these services are generally not free. Patrons are now using the library to take advantage of free digital resources in many formats and free WI-Fi access. In addition, use of traditional books, movies, audiobooks and music collections found in the library has remained strong. Whatever the format, public libraries exist to provide public access to these resources.

The Ellsworth Public Library is being used more each year, by more patrons, partly because the library continually adds new materials in both print and digital formats, but also because our goal is to provide a high level of service. Listening to unmet needs or keeping up with trends and advances in technology ensures a high level of service and satisfaction. The library's mission is to provide quality materials and services in an atmosphere that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive, while fulfilling educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community.

How will a larger building affect operating costs?

With a newer building, comes newer technologies and operating efficiencies which could ultimately lower operating costs. Keeping daily operations on one level allows the current staffing to be sufficient.

How is the Ellsworth Public Library funded?

The main sources of operational funding for the library are the Village of Ellsworth appropriation and funding from Pierce County known as Act 150. Other smaller sources of income include fees for faxing, copies and printouts, financial assistance from the Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library, funding from neighboring counties known as ACT 420, and revenue from donations and grants.

In 2017, approximately 60% of the library's revenue came from the Village appropriation and 35% from the county. The remaining 5% was from other sources. The library is debt-free.

Will public libraries continue to be relevant?

The age of the internet has expanded the roles and needs of public libraries across the nation. Even if patrons have internet access at home, they come to the library to access digital resources and reference databases that they could not afford on their own, to get computer and internet assistance, and to use free Wi-Fi within the library. A national study published in 2015 found that U.S. citizens of all ages, incomes and educational levels use library computers even if they have access to a computer at home.

Library patrons are not only those who physically use the library or its website resources, but include all those who positively benefit from a library's community outreach. The library plays a unique role in Ellsworth. It serves every resident as a vital, easily accessible portal to information, a partner in learning for all ages, and a resource to enrich and bring together all members of our community. The public library's resources are available to ALL residents, which distinguishes it from other community organizations. This makes the Ellsworth Public Library an indispensable community asset, one that yields a high return on the tax dollars that support it.

The improved library is an even more valuable resource that benefits individuals, families and the community at large.

What is the history of the library in the current building?

The library has been housed in the same building since 1932 when it occupied a space in the basement of the theatre. In 1975, the library moved into the current upstairs location. In the early 90s, a remodeling of the library occurred that also incorporated some space towards the rear of the building that had been used for other purposes. This remodeling helped provide better accessibility to the building. The current library space is approximately 2,880 square feet.