



DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM LEVY 2026 FACT SHEET

The Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees voted in May 2026 to place a 1.65-mill, 35-year levy on the November 3, 2026, ballot consisting of:

- A **renewal** of the library system's existing 0.75-mill operating levy. This levy has been in place, unchanged, for 24 years.
- A 0.9-mill **increase** to backfill the library system's operating budget for debt payments on a construction loan and operating costs at a new annex building across the street from Defiance Public Library.



ANNEX BUILDING - EXTERIOR APPROACH
SHP ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

The Annex Project

As the library's services and offerings continue to expand and diversify, its longstanding need for additional space has become extremely pressing. A donation of two parcels of property across from the Carnegie library on Fort Street has presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to complete this much-needed expansion. In 125 years of service, DPLS has incurred no long-term debt.

Estimated total construction cost (including Carnegie renovations): \$8.3 million

- Fundraising goal: 30% of total construction cost (\$2.5 million)
- Library funds set aside: \$1 million
- Donated property: Assessed at \$490,000 by Bigner Appraisal

Plans for the annex include an expanded Children's Services Department, a larger MakerSpace, a large meeting room to be shared with local government and nonprofits, huddle rooms, and space for an adult literacy coordinator. This will free up space in the Carnegie building, allowing for expanded teen and local history services.

More Information

Ohio public libraries receive most of their funding through the state's Public Library Fund (PLF). Ohio law allows libraries to borrow against future PLF revenue for building projects. Loan payments are then made from PLF revenue, reducing the operating funds available for library services. The proposed 0.9-mill increase would replace those operating dollars.

Beyond Defiance

The annex would become the central hub for services that would benefit DPLS' branch locations too, most notably the MakerSpace, which already brings services to DPLS' branches, and the Adult Literacy Program, which would do the same. Expanded local history and genealogy services would also enrich offerings to patrons of the Sherwood and Hicksville locations.

Understanding the Cost

The County Auditor estimates that the proposed levy will cost approximately \$47 annually for each \$100,000 of the County Auditor's market value of a home.