

**Belgrade Community Library
Operating Levy Information Sheet**

Mail-In Ballot Levy
October 14, 2009 – November 3, 2009

How much will this mill levy cost?

Typical House Assessed Values and Permanent Library Mill Levy Assessments
www.gallatin.mt.gov

*Assessed Value	The increased amount on your property taxes
\$50,000.00	\$12.56 annually
\$100,000.00	\$25.12 annually (The cost of a hardcover fiction book)
\$150,000.00	\$37.68 annually
\$200,000.00	\$50.24 annually (The cost of two hardcover fiction books)

***The assessed value is not the appraised or market value, but the amount the County determines as the value of your property on your tax statement.**

If the Levy PASSES, the Library would:	If the Levy FAILS, the Library would:
Maintain or expand open hours	Reduce open hours
Expand and enhance collection – more new books!	Be unable to add new books to the collection
Retain the availability of free internet/public access computers	Reduce hours for free internet/public access computers
Provide various daily newspapers from around the state	Provide only Belgrade News (free) and Bozeman Chronicle newspapers
Purchase popular Books on CD and DVD movies	Stop new purchase of Books on CD and DVD movies
Provide an assortment of popular magazines	Provide no magazines
Maintain or expand adult and children's programming	Reduce or eliminate public programs
Maintain or slightly increase staff hours	Cut staffing hours resulting in further reduction of open hours
Balance the budget and retire the ongoing deficit	Reduce levels of service, including open hours

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Belgrade city limit resident voters will see a permanent levy proposition for the library on their mail-in ballots beginning October 14, 2009. The ballots must be returned by November 3, 2009.

For the past several years, the library has been operating under a large deficit and will be unable to continue to provide the current level of service.

The Belgrade Community Library struggles to provide full library services for one of the fastest growing communities in Montana. The Belgrade Community Library's funding has not kept pace with the growth of the area and the increased demands for services. The library is in danger of falling below critical funding levels.

The library has not had enough money in the City budget the last three years to purchase any new materials. All new materials purchased for the library since 2006 have been funded entirely through grants, donations, and fundraisers, given on a one time basis (not renewable).

100 hours of staffing per week at the library is currently being provided by grants and other funding sources that will soon expire, which may force further reduction in library open hours.

In comparison with the six other Montana libraries most similar in service area population, Belgrade Community Library ranks:

Resources:

- Last in total income and income per capita
- Last in total expenditures and per capita expenditures
- Last in total staff employed
- Last in total number of items in the collection
- Second to last in collection size per capita

Services Provided:

- First in number of users per year
- Last in the number of hours open to the public
- Third in circulation and circulation per capita

In comparison with the five other Gallatin County Libraries, the Belgrade Community Library ranks:

- Second in total number of registered users
- First in percentage of people in our service area population registered

	Registered Borrowers	% of Population Registered
Belgrade Community Library	8,397	81.75
Bozeman Public Library	27,711	57.97
Manhattan Community Library	1,281	39.86
Three Forks Community Library	1,340	37.79
West Yellowstone Public Library	2,339	78.10

