



## FAQ's for the Library's Dedicated Library Tax Millage:

**Is this a new tax?** **No.** This is a renewal of the same 11.1 mills, 10-year dedicated tax approved by the voters in 1995 and again in 2005. In fact, 62% of those voting said "Yes" in 2005.

**What does the tax do?** This tax has created a dynamic Library system. For the past thirty years, this tax has provided the stable funding necessary for the East Baton Rouge Parish Library to deliver the services and facilities that the people of our communities need and heavily use. Your investment has paid off, permitting us to build and maintain high performing facilities, collections, services, and programs. It is time to renew this investment.

**How important is this tax election to the Library?** The dedicated property tax supplies the revenue for everything the East Baton Rouge Parish Library accomplishes. It provides the funding for salaries, books and all materials in the collection, utilities, maintenance of buildings, all operational costs, and the cost of new and improved facilities. Without passage of the tax, there is not a Library. There is no substitute funding.

**If a new millage rate is not approved by the voters, there is no alternative revenue source after the end of 2015, nor does the millage rate revert back to some other rate.** There will be no source of revenue to replace the expiring one. The only alternatives will be to hold a new emergency election within a timeline to allow for the tax to be put in place in 2016, or the library system will have to close down after surplus funds are depleted.

**How much of this tax covers construction?** Only 5% of the projected revenues from the tax would go towards construction. 95% would cover regular operations for the entire Library system. The East Baton Rouge Parish Library follows the **Pay-As-You-Go Plan** for all construction: Projects under consideration for the next ten years include enhancement and renovations to Jones Creek Regional (now over 25 years old), Greenwell Springs Road Regional, Baker, Scotlandville, Central and Zachary Branches, and a beginning of the renovation process for Delmont Gardens. These projects will bring the features (more meeting rooms, enhanced technology, collaborative spaces, dedicated teen spaces) that have proven to be so popular and are which are so heavily used at the Main Library and Fairwood branches to other branches throughout the parish, providing consistent access to needed services and resources.

**How did you arrive at 11.1 mills?** We used prescribed City-Parish methods to derive cost projections and tested them against a variety of scenarios including different millage rates, different capital projects, and included a number of different factors such as inflation levels, staffing levels, etc. We tried to estimate how much everything would cost over the next 10 years. After reviewing and debating numerous projections and listening to diverse advice, the Library Board of Control decided that staying with the historic 11.1 rate was the best rate for the future of the library and preserved its ability to adapt for evolving customer needs and continue to provide excellent services.

**What happens if the tax fails?** The East Baton Rouge Parish Library is almost totally funded by the revenues from this 10-year dedicated property tax. The tax generates funding for 98.96% of all expenses including our operating costs, materials, technology, and staffing as well as all maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements.

If the tax fails, the entire Library system would be affected. The Metro Council would have to approve a special election in the late spring. In the meantime, all operations would be paid for out of savings, depleting funds for future capital improvements. Eventually, if a millage can't be set, there would be nothing left and libraries would have to close.

**What has the Library achieved through the tax?** Citizen investment in the East Baton Rouge Parish Library over the past 30 years has resulted in being chosen as one of "America's Star Libraries" (according to *Library Journal*) with unmatched access to convenient locations. Your Library consistently delivers outstanding programs, offers new features and services, and introduces new and emerging technologies,

We need to keep the momentum going. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is considered as the "Knowledge Century" and technology is information based. We need libraries more than ever to help citizens

**Yes or No?** Voters will decide on October 24, 2015. A "Yes" vote means a continuation of library services at the current levels plus capital improvements for 7 of our 11 oldest buildings over the next 10 years. A "No" vote means that the entire Library system will be adversely affected; we would have to reduce hours, reduce staff, and cut back on services and collections. If a new millage cannot be set and approved by voters in the spring of 2016, we would not have the funding to continue library services and libraries would have to close.

### **Awards, Accolades, Acknowledgements:**

***Your East Baton Rouge Parish Library is the busiest Library in Louisiana, with deepest collections, most visitors, highest circulation, most technology access, most reference questions answered, most programs, and most meeting room usage.***

- National recognition as a Landmark Library in *Library Journal* (September 15, 2015)
- One of America's Star Libraries in *Library Journal's* Star Rankings for three consecutive years (2012, 2013, 2014)
- Top rankings in City Stats
- Featured in 2015 Library Design Showcase by *American Libraries* (September 1, 2015)
- ENR Tex-LA Best Project Overall Award (5 state region, including Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arkansas) in addition to ENR Tex-LA Best Government Project Award (5 state region)
- Rose Awards for Main Library at Goodwood, Jones Creek Regional, Bluebonnet Regional, Greenwell Springs Road Regional, Carver, Eden Park Branches.
- Library of Congress Center for the Book Showcase Award (2005)
- Prestigious earlier awards include the President's Coming Up Taller Award for piloting and developing Prime Time Family Reading Time (2001) and the Highsmith Award of Excellence (1996)

***Your East Baton Rouge Parish Library has developed a number of outstanding series and created important local resources:***

- Author-Illustrator Program, now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year, One Book One Community, Attic Treasures, Summer Reading Programs for all ages, Multicultural Fest, Pride Community History Fest, Authors Row
- Prime Time Family Reading Time, which originated here and is now in libraries across the nation
- Community Information Database, which began as the Library Information Service Community Directory
- Online resources such as www.BRCityKey, BR Obituary File, and the BR Digital Archive

# Want to Dig Deeper?

## History of Library's Dedicated Property Tax:

From 1939 until 1987, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's operating budget was part of the general fund. Following years of cuts and closures, the Library Board of Control opted to go to the polls and on September 27, 1986, 67% of the voters approved an 8.3, ten year dedicated property tax to operate and maintain the library system. There was no separate tax for capital improvements—it was all rolled into one tax so that the Library's budget would be more flexible and responsive, rather than being locked in. Because of this, we were able to roll unspent funds due to salary savings or conservative spending into the Capital Projects Fund and build all branches larger than originally promised. We were also able to budget for three additional construction projects beyond the scope of the original Capital Improvements Plan, replacing Zachary, building Fairwood, and funding South.

In 1995, the voters approved an 11.1 millage by a margin of 56% on July 19. In 2005, the voters renewed the 11.1 millage with 62% approval rate. It was rolled forward in August 2008 so that the Library would have the necessary funds to fast track construction of the Fairwood Library (ahead of inflation); the millage was rolled back in 2012 to 10.78. On June 10, 2015, the Metro Council approved an 11.1 millage proposal for the October 24, 2015 election.

## Library's Strategic Plan: Discover Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library

We went through a **lengthy strategic planning process**, involving input from the public, staff, and stakeholders over the past few years. The strategic plan was presented in fall of 2014 and may be found at <http://www.ebrpl.com/StrategicPlanRevJuly2014.pdf>. The Summary is located at <http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/Documents/ebrplstrategicplan2015.pdf>.

The public weighed in on future plans in public meetings during the spring 2015.

### Discovering Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library:

Fairwood	1/24	Greenwell Springs Road Regional	3/31
Main Library at Goodwood	1/26 & 1/27	Carver	4/8
River Center	2/24	Zachary	4/14
Bluebonnet Regional	2/26	Pride-Chaneyville	5/12
Eden Park	3/11	Central	5/13
Baker	3/17	Jones Creek Regional	5/14
Scotlandville	3/23	Delmont Gardens	5/15

## Process to Select a Millage for the October 24, 2015 Election:

To determine future needs, the Library has carefully researched costs and anticipated inflation for all budget lines including maintenance, utilities, technology, books and other materials, salaries, benefits, contractual services, over the next ten years.

By the end of the 2015-2025 tax decade, even the new Fairwood branch will have aged to the point of requiring scheduled large maintenance projects, and older branches will have required significant attention to ensure their viability and responsiveness to the changing needs of the public. Therefore, a **Branch Assessment Study** was compiled in December 2014/January 2015, examining the 11 oldest of our 14 library buildings to determine what their capital maintenance needs were over the next 10 to 20 years. The Study also suggested possible improvements to renovate or refresh branches to provide some of the same features and amenities found in our newer buildings. The Study included a broad range of estimates for capital construction for each project over the next 20 years.

Finally, a series of Budget Projections were produced for various scenarios, so that the Board could see exactly what happens within each set of circumstances. Scenarios included a number of different millages, different capital expenditures, the possibility of bonding, and different cuts to operations including the materials and maintenance budgets. The Board met in a Special Meeting on March 10 to discuss the various scenarios and voted to send forward a proposal to the Metro Council for 11.1 mills at the Regular Board Meeting on March 19.

All meetings were open to the public and minutes of all meetings may be found on the Library's website, [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com).

## Cost to East Baton Rouge Parish Homeowners Per Year at 11.1 Tax Millage Rate:

	Property Tax with Renewed Millage Rate of 11.1	Equivalent To	Or
Home Valued at \$ 100,000	\$ 27.75	53 cents per week	Less than the cost of one hard back book per year
Home Valued at \$ 125,000	\$ 55.50	\$ 1.07 per week	Approximately two hard back books per year
Home Valued at \$ 150,000	\$ 83.25	\$ 1.60 per week	Three books and a couple of cheeseburgers per year
Home Valued at \$ 165,900 <i>Median Priced Home in EBR</i>	\$ 100.90	\$ 1.94 per week	One regular cup of coffee per week
Home Valued at \$ 175,000	\$ 111.00	\$ 2.13 per week	Four books and a music CD per year
Home Valued at \$ 200,000	\$ 138.75	\$ 2.67 per week	Five books and a pizza per year
Home Valued at \$ 225,000	\$ 166.50	\$ 3.20 per week	2 magazines and a roll of Lifesavers candy per month
Home Valued at \$ 250,000	\$ 194.25	\$ 3.74 per week	3 Cups of Mocha Frappuccino per month

## Who is running the tax campaign?

A volunteer organization, the EBR Library PAC, is handling outreach and advocacy for the Library's Tax Election. For more information, visit [Vote4EBRPL](#) on Twitter, East Baton Rouge Parish Library PAC on Facebook or email [Vote4EBRPL@gmail.com](mailto:Vote4EBRPL@gmail.com).

## Notes on Expenditures and Assumptions for the Budget Projections:

The 2015 budget was used as the base budget for the Budget Projections.

## Operational Costs comprise 94.75 % of the total projected expenses & include:

- Fixed Costs such as Utilities, Fiscal Management, Statutory Requirements, Insurance, Janitorial, Garbage, Communication, etc.
- Regular Operations costs such as books, supplies, furniture, fixtures, office equipment, printing, postage, etc.
- Communications
- Regular Maintenance for buildings, vehicles and office equipment repairs and/or replacement
- Personnel Salaries and Benefits
  - We deducted \$300,000 from the base for the book budget – this still permits us to maintain a very strong collection development effort, and takes into account that we've built up some weak spots over the past couple of years; we reduced the travel and training budget by 10%, which still leaves us with a robust level of expenditures in this area; and we trimmed maintenance by 2%.
  - We have frozen the South Branch personnel costs for 2016, as it would be highly unlikely we could build and populate the branch during that budget year.
  - A 4.5% attrition rate has been included in our cost projections. Previous millage requests did not include this factor. Staff turnover has been averaging about 8 percent. We chose 4.5% which is close to a normal rate for similar organizations. The absence of any attrition factor has generally been one of the largest contributors to a positive cash balance. **This is a huge change for us and will reduce the amount of cushion in annual budgets and the amount of surplus that can be added to cash and fund balances.**
  - We have added 2% and 3% COLA type of adjustments for personnel costs – it is unlikely the City-Parish can sustain the current compensation plan without some adjustments over the next ten years, but it is difficult to predict how and when adjustments would take place. This approach does give us some coverage.
  - Initially we had created a zero growth personnel allotment schedule; after reviewing needs including potential growth for demand of services to older citizens, the Board directed us to build in an increase by 8 positions over the 10 year taxing decade. South Branch staffing would be added in 2017 and is accounted for.

## Capital Improvements Comprise 5.25 % of the Total Projected Expenses.

- The River Center Branch Replacement project and the South Branch are already funded.
- Over the past twenty years we have been committed to much larger capital investments than proposed, so an amount that falls under \$20 million would be a substantial reduction in capital investment levels. Zero capital investment would represent a radical departure from our traditional priorities and strategic goals.
- New Capital project costs total \$ 24.8 million. These costs were derived from the **Branch Assessment Study**, and we used the architect's full development option with a combination of 2015 and 2025 costs. This was done for demonstration purposes only. In thinking about capital projects we will also need to consider realistic timelines, and the City-Parish's ability to absorb the responsibility for supervising projects.
- It is not feasible to complete all 11 projects suggested in the *Branch Assessment Study* within the next ten years. **Six new capital projects are proposed for our oldest facilities** (excluding Bluebonnet, which is currently undergoing renovations). Major renovations for each selected branch would be planned to best incorporate the features and infrastructure needed for new technology as well as to accommodate services which are eagerly anticipated throughout the library system:
  - **Jones Creek Regional** (*currently 25 years old ... it will be 35 years old in 2025 at the end of the next tax decade*)
  - **Greenwell Spring Road Regional** (*currently 18 years old ... it will be 28 years old in 2025*)
  - **Baker** (*currently 14 years old ... will be 24 years old in 2025*)
  - **Scotlandville** (*currently 14 years old ... will be 24 years in 2025*)
  - **Central** (*currently 13 years old ... will be 23 years old in 2025*)
  - **Zachary** (*currently 11 years old... will be 21 years old in 2025*)
  - Phase I for **Delmont Gardens**, the most difficult project
- **What happens if we accrue more funds in Fund Balance than projected?** Since our 11 oldest branches all need attention, we will accelerate our schedule of Capital Improvements and complete the Delmont Gardens project and begin work on the next libraries on the list.
- We would also like to consider adding up to 2 other smaller branches in the future – one in the far southeastern portion of the parish, and one near the old Earl K. Long Hospital. Overall, it would appear unlikely that we could afford that during the upcoming ten year period, but we would like to acquire land in the southeast before property becomes even more scarce in that area – so we have included money for property acquisition and perhaps some preliminary A&E work. We would also like to have a “moveable” branch – where we set up a smaller, modular branch in underserved areas and develop a relationship with users and try to redirect them to full service libraries – a sort of mission station that after a while could be moved to another site. We do not see us having the capital or staffing resources to do this in the immediate future. We have also included some money to purchase automated materials dispensers that can be set up at remote sites. We added extra dollars for the South Branch property and architectural work – just as a precaution.

## Summary of the Library's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP):

Following the successful passage of the first dedicated Library tax in 1986, the **Library embarked on a 30 year “Pay-As-You-Go” Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**. Funds were saved over time; salary savings plus other savings in expenditures for each year was added to the capital fund. A replacement facility for Zachary and the new Fairwood and South Branches were not in the original CIP plan, however careful stewardship allowed the library to fund these three additional capital projects.

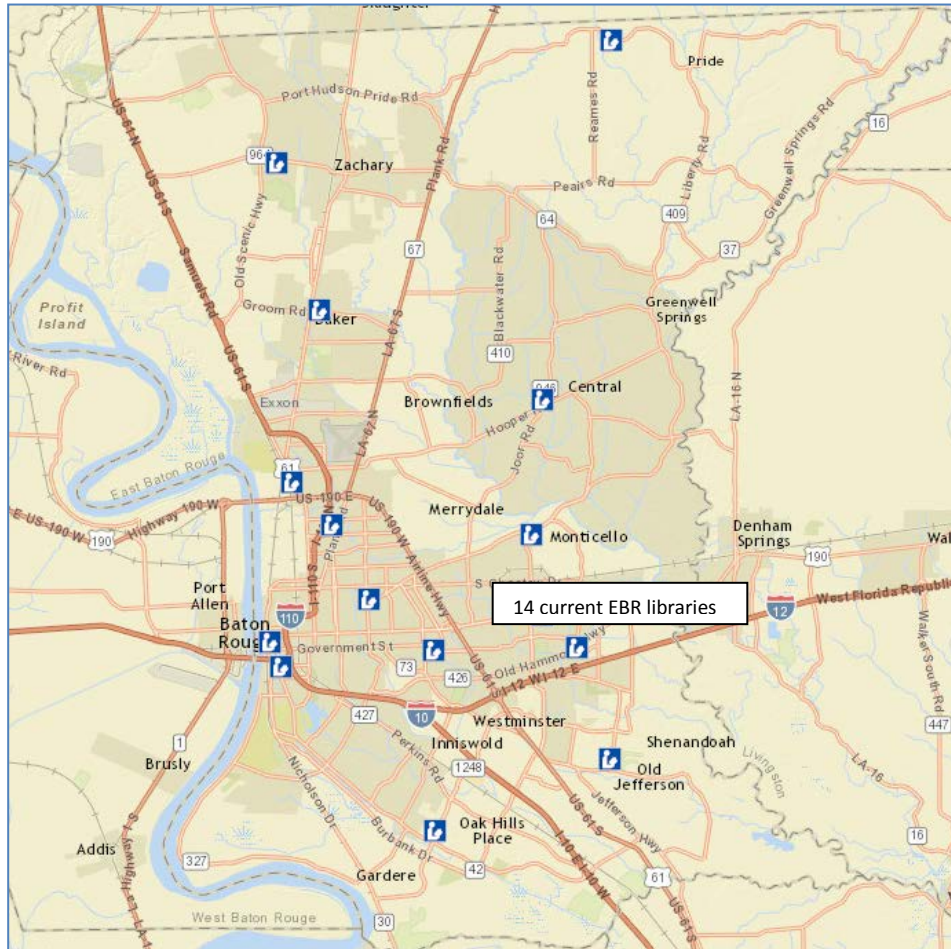
Three regional branch libraries were constructed in the south, south east, and eastern portions of the parish to serve new communities. Eight existing branches were replaced with larger community branches. Finally, a new Main Library was completed in 2014. The Library currently has 2 funded capital improvement projects in the wings: plans are underway to replace the River Center Branch and land is being sought to construct a new branch in the southern part of the parish.

Details related to all current or recently completed construction projects may be found at <http://www.ebrpl.com/cip.html>.

**Pay-As-You-Go:** Library patrons appreciate the wisdom of saving prior to building rather than bonded indebtedness. The Library is funded on a 10-year cycle, so long-term bonds are not an option. Since we save and then “front-load” our efforts, the Library does not have to pay additional funds to service high interest debt or rely on uncertain future revenues.

**Over the past two decades, we started each millage period with an 11.1 millage rate, and committed \$40 to \$60 million in each of those decades for new construction and facilities.** The staff is not suggesting that we need capital investment at these levels, but we feel that we do need to reinvest in our facilities and be capable of making needed improvements for our citizens – zero new capital improvements would have an adverse impact on the provision of services and on the long term development of the library system.

# East Baton Rouge Parish Library System



**14 Current Library Locations**  
**All are open 7 days per week:**

- Main Library at Goodwood
- Baker Branch
- Bluebonnet Regional Branch
- Carver Branch
- Central Branch
- Delmont Gardens Branch
- Eden Park Branch
- Fairwood Branch
- Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch
- Jones Creek Regional Branch
- Pride-Chaneyville Branch
- River Center Branch
- Scotlandville Branch
- Zachary Branch

The **Branch Assessment Study** analyzes 11 of 14 library buildings and details possible capital improvements over the next 20 years. Reviewed by the Library Board of Control at its public meeting on February 19, 2015, the Study is available for your perusal on the website at [http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/Documents/Branch\\_Assessment\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/Documents/Branch_Assessment_Presentation.pdf).

This study explored possibilities for renovation in our 11 oldest branches and provides us an idea about potential costs... this tool is designed to help the Board consider options for improvements and renovations for the future at various branches. These are CONCEPTS only... each project would be developed on an individual basis.

However, we would like to ensure equitable and responsive levels of service throughout the parish. As library patrons come to our newest facilities, the Fairwood Branch and Main Library at Goodwood, they take advantage of the new services and features these new building provide, such as collaborative spaces, quiet rooms, dedicated teen rooms, powered tables, etc, and they also ask when those features will be available at their own neighborhood branch.

**The Branch Assessment Study gives us a working roadmap for how we might not only maintain but also improve our facilities and roll those services out to patrons throughout the parish.**

## CURRENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS:

**Main Library at Goodwood:** The new Main Library at Goodwood opened to the public on January 15, 2015; Archives and the Career Center relocated in May and the Genealogy collection transfer and parking was completed in November 2014. This facility has already achieved local, regional and national recognition. All aspects of usage have risen dramatically since opening day: gate count, circulation, programming attendance, meeting room use, computer use, wifi use, and computer training. People not only come in record numbers, but also linger in the building for hours. Teen use of the new Teen Zone has also risen dramatically. The Archives and Genealogy collections have experienced phenomenal growth as well. Usage of the collaborative study rooms is a new metric for the library system; in 2015, these rooms were used 6,447 times. All of these factors add validity to the findings of the Branch Assessment Study: people want and will use attractive, well designed spaces with accommodations for technology, interests, and varying age groups.

**River Center Branch Library:** Design Development is complete and the project is on track to begin in late Fall 2015 once DPW and Purchasing have completed the Public Bid process to secure a General Contractor for the project.

**South Branch Library:** The Board continued in their due diligence, with a detailed study and wetlands analysis of numerous properties in the desired area. A commercial broker will be hired in late summer 2015 to assist in finding and acquiring land; citizens of the area have publicly thanked the Board for NOT giving up on the project.

**Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library:** Renovation began in Summer 2015; the project to move Teens into the vacated Genealogy space will be complete in late Fall 2015. New areas for collaborative study will also be created.

## More on Proposed Capital Expenditures:

***The Library has CAREFULLY reviewed all of the numbers again and again to make sure that each line for revenue and operations is correct at the 11.1 millage rate; then we looked closely at the proposed capital expenditures.***

- *The Library has experienced a dramatic acceleration in the rate of technological change and in the way people use our buildings. The Board saw a clear need for a more robust capital plan that can bring new and improved services and experiences to the public.*
- *The Board astutely looked at expenditures over the ten year span, and the financial situation that would exist at the end of the ten year cycle – many people now only look at quarterly results, and many have difficulty in thinking even a year or two in advance –thinking strategically, the Board saw that reduced millages would result in a backlog of capital projects, with only 4 of 11 being accomplished – the finances and the deferred projects would make it difficult to catch back up again – plus the four projects that could be done under a restricted budget were all drastically scaled back, and would deliver only a limited degree of the planned benefits.*
- *Being considered:*
  1. *Equitable dispersion of services and opportunity throughout the Parish – getting new features to buildings, and in a timely manner – why should Central or Delmont have to wait 20 or 25 years, at a reduced pace for construction?*
  2. *Watered down nature of projects if we cut too much, so get worse cost/benefit ratio and less bang for the buck*
  3. *Rising costs for developments of the last 20 years – can't build new branches and great new Main, and then fail to support them with adequate budgets*
  4. *Looking to the future, we can't get mired down in such a slow moving plan that events and the community will outpace what you're offering*
  5. *Protect the significant investment via strategically planned renovations and refurbishment. Unless you maintain and refresh your spaces, you are building in obsolescence and buildings will only last 25 years instead of the 40-50 years we hope for.*

# Branch Assessment Project:

As part of the process of implementing the mission of the library, earlier this year, the Library Board completed its process of updating the strategic plan for the East Baton Rouge Parish Library System. One of the goals of the Library's *Strategic Plan* addresses facilities and infrastructure:

## **Our newer buildings reflect what patrons have asked for:**

- Collaborative Meeting Spaces (of different sizes)
- Quiet study areas
- Spaces with infrastructure that will allow us to be flexible as to repurpose areas as the needs arise.
- Power for the devices they use, located at numerous locations (and in furniture), throughout the building
- Patrons are interested in learning about and using newer technologies

## **In our older facilities:**

- Many of the branches were originally built when customer needs and priorities were different from today (for example, prior to the proliferation of personal laptops and mobile devices)
- Some of these buildings are experiencing the inevitable difficulties associated with age and heavy use (the need for additional power and data, and furniture that can accommodate those power needs).
- Worn and deteriorating finishes.

## **As we move forward, in addition to the features listed above, we plan to add:**

- More technology: not just more computers, but a wider variety of technological features (recording/editing software, streaming media, whiteboards, smart tables, smart boards.
- Enhanced power and data infrastructure – to provide flexibility in our existing space
- An assessment has been conducted by a group of architects:
  - To determine what upgrades and new or repurposed spaces should be introduced at these sites
  - To plan for updating and repurposing these existing buildings so that they offer the latest technology, collections, and space
  - To help the Library review needs over the next decade
  - To responsibly and strategically plan for improvements
  - To project the level of funding needed to support these improvements.
  - To provide equitable, current, and responsive services and opportunities throughout the Parish

The study may be found online at [http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/Documents/Branch\\_Assessment\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/Documents/Branch_Assessment_Presentation.pdf) .

While some branches are newer, each location can benefit from an assessment. Moreover, the fact that a building is not as old does not preclude the need for updating to newer technology and features for the patrons they serve. The architects examined ways to:

- Expand and improve Meeting Room spaces
- Provide Collaborative Study Spaces
- Create a dedicated Teen Area
- Create more user-friendly and people-centered work and study spaces
- Update furniture (for example, tables with power outlets and chairs with tablet arms)
- Use of more interactive technology
- Incorporate additional power/data throughout the buildings (for example, install a raceway system for power and data, to add flexibility with regard to location of computers)
- Streamline services and increase efficiencies at Service Desks; create flexible work areas
- Implement self-check and automated materials handling

The results of the study give us a foundation for planning, budgeting, and prioritizing improvements over the next ten years and allow us to develop a reasonable projection of funding requirements to accomplish our goals.



## Overview of Branch Library Facilities Included in the *Branch Assessment Study*:

Branch	Size (sf)	Type of Construction	Year Opened	Building Age in 2014	Building Age in 2025	Proposed Capital Improvements is \$ 24.8 Million over the Next 10 Years, or 5.25 % of the Total Budget
<b>Jones Creek Regional</b>	34,750	New Building	1990	24	35	\$ 3,949,470
<b>Bluebonnet Regional *</b>	37,600	New Building	1993	21	32	Partial renovation underway now
<b>Greenwell Springs Regional</b>	26,672	New Building	1997	17	28	\$ 4,401,470
<b>Baker Branch</b>	17,900	Rebuilt in a new location	2001	13	24	\$ 3,836,850
<b>Scotlandville Branch</b>	17,985	Rebuilt in a new location	2001	13	24	\$ 4,029,290
<b>Central Branch</b>	18,263	Rebuilt in a new location	2002	12	23	\$ 3,592,040
<b>Zachary Branch</b>	18,000	Rebuilt in a new location	2004	10	21	\$ 4,401,800
<b>Delmont Gardens **</b>	19,267	Renovation/Expansion	2005	9	20	\$ 637,420 for Phase I
<b>Carver Branch</b>	12,000	Rebuilt in a new location	2005	9	20	Not funded at 11.1 mills or lower
<b>Pride-Chaneyville</b>	12,000	Rebuilt in a new location	2005	9	20	Not funded at 11.1 mills or lower
<b>Eden Park Branch</b>	14,000	Rebuilt in a new location	2007	7	18	Not funded at 11.1 mills or lower

\*A partial renovation project for Bluebonnet is currently underway (to re-purpose the old Genealogy Room).

\*\* Delmont Garden's original, 7,555 square foot building was constructed in 1985. The expansion/remodeling, completed in 2005, increased the size of the building by 11,712 square feet.

## Proposed Capital Improvements for Next Ten Years Comes to 5.25% of the Total Budget:

- Construct replacement for RCB (already funded, in Construction Document phase)
- Build South (already funded, actively seeking land)
- START Facilities or kiosks ...
- Major Renovations plans are based on Branch Assessment Project scheduled for the next taxing decade 2016-2025:
  - Jones Creek Regional
  - Greenwell Springs Regional
  - Baker Branch
  - Scotlandville Branch
  - Delmont Garden Branch Phase 1

Major renovations for each branch would be planned to best incorporate the features and infrastructure needed for new technology as well as to accommodate services which are eagerly anticipated throughout the library system, such as:

- powered tables
- quiet study rooms
- collaborative work spaces
- dedicated teen rooms
- technology labs
- single-use rest rooms for those with special needs who are accompanied by family members or aides.

## Construction Costs Show Inflation Over Time:

<b><i>Library Branch Comparisons as of January 2014</i></b>	<b><i>year built</i></b>	<b><i>cost per square foot as of 12/2013</i></b>	<b><i>square footage</i></b>
<b><i>River Center Branch Library</i></b>	1979	\$ 37.69	26,530
<b>Jones Creek Regional Branch Library</b>	1990	\$ 76.71	34,750
<b>Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library</b>	1993	\$ 115.73	37,600
<b>Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library</b>	1997	\$ 153.41	26,672
<b>Baker Branch Library</b>	2001	\$ 166.19	17,900
<b>Scotlandville Branch Library</b>	2001	\$ 171.48	17,985
<b>Central Branch Library</b>	2002	\$ 175.61	18,263
<b>Zachary Branch Library</b>	2004	\$ 195.28	18,000
<b>Delmont Gardens Branch Library</b>	2005	\$ 157.66 <i>(this was an addition)</i>	19,267
<b>Carver Branch Library</b>	2005	\$ 248.91	12,000
<b>Pride-Chaneyville Branch Library</b>	2005	\$ 219.70	12,000
<b>Eden Park Branch Library</b>	2007	\$ 282.12	14,000
<b>Fairwood Branch</b>	2013	\$ 342.65	15,838
<b>Main Library replaced 1967 building</b>	2014	\$ 319.71	129,418
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>400,223**</b>

**\*\*State Standards for Library Square Footage are 1 foot per capita**

East Baton Rouge population = 445,227 which means we are currently under State Standards by 45,004 SF.  
Adding square footage at RCB and South will help bring us closer to the State Standards for this metric.

## Library Governance and Funding:

- The Metro Council appoints seven citizens to the Library Board of Control; they serve as the advisory board for the library system. All meetings are open to the public. Minutes may be found online at <http://www.ebrpl.com/lboc/lboc.html> and televised screenings of the Board Meetings air on Metro 21 on Saturday evenings at 9:00 pm.
- The Library is a Special Revenue Fund of the City Parish. All library operations, including maintenance and capital construction has been almost entirely funded by a 10-year, dedicated property tax.
- Citizens of the parish have approved this investment in the Library since 1986.
- Library's Annual Budget is approved by the Metro Council; it includes Operations, Maintenance, Materials, Technology, and Capital Construction.
- Since there is no other source of funding, the Library, like other Special Revenue Fund Agencies, must set aside savings for contingencies and future projects in Fund Balance, which also includes anticipated revenues not yet collected as well as committed but unexpended funds from previous years.
- Fund Balance includes ANTICIPATED Revenues as well as approved but unspent funds. The current Fund Balance *as of June 2015* includes:
  - One Year's Operational Reserve
  - \$ 2,000,000 Casualty Loss Deductible Reserve
  - \$ 500,000 Emergency Storm Reserve
  - \$ 3.7 M in funded but as yet unspent maintenance projects and equipment costs
  - \$ 6.2 M for Future Capital Projects
- However—Fund Balance is not the same as Cash Balance ... City Parish Policy requires the Library to show a positive Cash Balance. The amount listed in Cash Balance includes unexpended capital improvement funds. Currently, Cash Balance includes all funds currently set aside for the River Center Branch Library replacement project, the South Branch Library construction project, RFID implementation, the Outreach Services Facility, any remaining change orders for the new Main Library, the Bluebonnet Renovation project, as well as the Greenwell Springs and Scotlandville flooring projects.

## General Notes about Millages:

- 1 mill generated \$ 4,503,354 in 2014
- Millage revenues are based on a City-Parish formula, with certain in-built assumptions. The formula is mandatory and cannot be adjusted.
- A millage rate cannot be adopted that displays a negative cash balance; expenditures cannot exceed the projected revenues. In any case where the projection is showing a negative cash balance, we would be required to cut expenditures accordingly.
- Rollbacks are statutorily required, although the governing body may elect a roll forward option at the time of the rollback. Projections must include the required rollbacks.
- We have been good stewards of the tax payers' money. They have acknowledged this at the polls in 1986, in 1995, and again in 2005. (8.3 mills in 1986; 11.1 mills in 1995; 11.1 mills in 2005)
- It was stated on more than one occasion (by others) that the Library generates the highest tax. **This is simply not true.** We are not even close to being one of the highest agencies on the tax rolls—all anyone has to do to see what the tax rolls generate is to look at their tax bill in December—and then add up the numbers for those entities who have more than one tax. See [www.ebrpa.org](http://www.ebrpa.org).
- The Library's dedicated funds cannot be taken away and applied to any other use, no matter how worthy. It is improper and in fact, illegal for dedicated funds to be used for any purpose other than voted upon by the voters.
- Even if our own millage was lowered, there is no guarantee that "robbing Peter to pay Paul" would be successful, since the voters would still need to vote for any newly proposed tax.

## INVENTORY TAX:

- In terms of the inventory tax, the tax, based on recent figures, is about 9.96% of our millage revenue – based on anticipated 2015 income this would be a reduction of about \$ 4.1 million per year for us.
- We do not have any general obligation bonds—we have a pay-as-you go approach, so this means that we do have committed capital funds but not debt. Loss of inventory tax income would either cause cuts in services and operations or create a need to raise additional revenue, through either an additional millage increase or some other means.

# Timeline for Library Tax Election:

March 10, 2015	Special Meeting of Library Board of Control <i>The Library Board of Control held a special meeting Tuesday evening to discuss the Library's 10-year, dedicated tax. This was a working meeting – more of a workshop in understanding the various projections and would they would mean for the library system.</i>
March 19, 2015	Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control <i>Library Board voted to send forward a proposal to renew the Library's dedicated tax at the same rate of 11.1 mills.</i>
April 15, 2015	Public Notice Requirement for the October 24, 2015 election. This is a simple announcement; it is not a hearing or opportunity for public comment or discussion. <i>April 8 Agenda states: "Announcement regarding the consideration by the Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge to call a tax election on behalf of the Downtown Development District of the City of Baton Rouge to be held on October 24, 2015, with respect to the renewal of the 10.0 mills ad valorem tax. By: Bond Counsel."</i>
April 22, 2015	Public Meeting Announcement
April 29, 2015	Special Briefing for Metro Council
May 7, 2015	Special Briefing for Metro Council
May 27, 2015	On the Metro Council Agenda for discussion and approval; deferred until June 10
June 10, 2015	The Metro Council approved the millage at 11.1
June 16, 2015	State Bond Commission Application Deadline
July 16, 2015	State Bond Commission Approval
August 11, 2015	Secretary of State Filing Deadline
August 28, 2015	EBR Library PAC submits Statement of Organization
August 31 – Sept 4	Voter Registration Drive throughout EBRPL system (as in previous years)
September 9, 2015	Official Journal Publication Deadline
September 10, 2015	FAQs posted on Library website
September 24, 2015	Press Conference to announce the Election Distribution of yard signs and other materials follows
September 23, 2015	Last Day to Register to Vote for October 24 election <a href="http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2015.pdf">http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2015.pdf</a>
October 10, 2015	Early Voting Begins (Saturday)
October 17, 2015	Early Voting Ends (Saturday)
October 20, 2015	Deadline to Request a Mail Ballot (must be received by Registrar by October 23)
October 24, 2015	Election Day (Saturday)

## IN GENERAL:

Libraries are not dead. Local statistics as well as statistics gathered in libraries throughout the United States demonstrate that public library usage is up in a number of different output measures. Your East Baton Rouge Parish Library has experienced a robust increase of over 16% in major indicators in 2014. [http://www.ebrpl.com/Overall\\_Indicators\\_2010\\_2014.pdf](http://www.ebrpl.com/Overall_Indicators_2010_2014.pdf)

The proceeds from our 10-year, dedicated property tax are used to operate and maintain the library system, including books and non-print materials, supplies, technology, staff, maintenance and utilities, and capital projects. We have operated using this tax since 1987; stable funding allowed the library system to plan for the future and construct and operate new facilities throughout the parish. All branches are open 7 days per week. Since we build on the Pay-As-You-Go Plan, all facilities are PAID for with no bonds or indebtedness.

The voters approved an 11.1 mills tax in 1995 and renewed it at 11.1 mills in 2005. We go back to the voters on October 24, 2015. To determine future needs, the Library has carefully researched costs and anticipated inflation for all budget lines including maintenance, utilities, technology, books and other materials, salaries, benefits, contractual services, over the next ten years.



We have completed **10 Year Budget Projections** and examining maintenance, technology upgrades, inflation costs for operations etc. We have received the results of the **Branch Assessment Study** which has given us concrete information regarding capital needs for renovation or refreshment of existing facilities over the next 10 years... this is especially important since we can see firsthand how the public has responded to quite reading rooms, study rooms, and technology suites in our newest facilities – Fairwood and the Main Library—and we want to offer patrons these same types of dynamic features or amenities throughout the parish.

This process of careful study and deliberation allowed us to figure out exactly what is needed to operate and maintain the Library system at the current levels of excellent service over the next 10 years. This includes maintenance and necessary capital improvements to refresh and renew existing spaces to meet the changing needs of the public — THAT has determined the millage request. That is the only fiscally responsible way to do it!

This is the same millage rate we have asked for in 1995 and 2005. It is considered a renewal, according to the State Bond Commission's Tax Classification Guidelines. We were rolled back to 10.78 mills in 2012.



**Libraries Mean Business**

**Libraries Provide Access**

**Libraries Make Connections**

**Libraries Build Communities**

**Libraries Change Lives**

## **AGENDA ITEM FOR APRIL 8, 2015 TO ANNOUNCE LIBRARY TAX ELECTION**

Announcement regarding the consideration by the Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge to call an election to be held on October 24, 2015, with respect to the renewal of the 11.1 mills ad valorem tax levied and collected by the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, for a period of ten (10) years, for the purpose of maintaining and operating the public library system of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and its branches, and improving services, acquiring land and constructing new library facilities, with the avails or proceeds of the tax to be administered by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT LANGUAGE**

**Also, the following must be read in its entirety by the President Pro Tempore or Council Administrator in connection with this agenda item on April 8, 2015:**

The Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge will meet on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at its regular meeting place, the Council Chambers, City Hall, Third Floor, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the calling of an election to be held on October 24, 2015, for the submittal to the voters in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, the renewal of a 11.1 mills ad valorem tax, for a period of ten (10) years, commencing with the tax collection for the year 2016, and annually thereafter, to and including the year 2025, for the purpose of providing funds (after paying reasonable and necessary expenses of collecting and administering the tax) to be used entirely and exclusively for the purpose of maintaining and operating the public library system of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and its branches, and improving services, acquiring land and constructing new library facilities, to be administered by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control.

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTION**

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted on June 10, 2015 by the Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge (the "Metropolitan Council"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States of America, the following proposition, to-wit:

## **PROPOSITION**

Shall the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana (the "Parish") be authorized to renew the levy and collection of 11.1 mills ad valorem tax (the "Tax") (an estimated \$43,586,820 is reasonably expected to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the tax collection for the year 2016, and annually thereafter, to and including the year 2025, and shall the proceeds of the Tax (after paying reasonable and necessary expenses of collecting and administering the Tax) be used entirely and exclusively for the purpose of maintaining and operating the public library system of the Parish and its branches, and improving services, acquiring land and constructing new library facilities, title to which is and shall be in the public, and shall the avails or proceeds of the Tax be administered by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control, in the manner required by law?

The said election will be held at the following polling places situated within the corporate limits of the Parish, which polls will open at seven (7:00) o'clock a.m., and close at eight (8:00) o'clock p.m., in compliance with the provisions of Section 541 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 18:541), to-wit: *(list of polling places follows the proposition)*

# EBRP Millage Rates as of 2014

SOURCE: <http://www.ebrpa.org/PageDisplay.asp?p1=4621>

PARISH TAXES		
MILLAGE	GOVERNMENT AGENCY/PURPOSE	
3.440	PARISH	
1.410	MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT	
3.130	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	
10.780	PARISH LIBRARY	
14.038	BREC MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	
4.360	SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	
3.730	ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT 2	
6.900	ADDITIONAL SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT 3	
1.340	ASSESSOR'S SALARY & EXPENSE FUND	
<b>49.128</b>	<b>TOTAL PARISH TAX</b>	
E B R PARISH SCHOOL TAXES		
MILLAGE	GOVERNMENT AGENCY/PURPOSE	
5.250	CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS	
1.040	SPECIAL - SCHOOL MAINTENANCE	
6.500	ADDITIONAL AID TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
2.780	ADDITIONAL TEACHERS	
1.860	SCHOOL - EMPLOYEES SALARIES & BENEFITS	
7.140	SCHOOL - EMPLOYEES SALARIES & BENEFITS 2	
7.190	SCHOOL - EMPLOYEES SALARIES & BENEFITS 3	
4.980	SCHOOL - REPLACING REDUCED PAYMENTS	
5.990	SPECIAL - EMPLOYEES SALARIES & BENEFITS	
0.720	SPECIAL - SUPPORT ADAPP	
<b>43.450</b>	<b>TOTAL E B R SCHOOL MILLAGE</b>	
BATON ROUGE CITY TAX		
MILLAGE	GOVERNMENT AGENCY/PURPOSE	ABBREVIATION
6.220	GENERAL FUND	
0.900	THREE-PLATOON POLICE SYSTEM	
6.000	B. R. MUNICIPAL FIRE SALARIES & BENEFIT	B. R. FIRE
<b>13.120</b>	<b>TOTAL BATON ROUGE CITY TAX</b>	
OTHER TAXING AUTHORITIES		
MILLAGE	GOVERNMENT AGENCY/PURPOSE	ABBREVIATION
9.000	ZACHARY FIRE DIST. # 1	ZFD1
14.000	ST. GEORGE FIRE DIST. #2	ST. GEO.
25.000	BROWNSFIELD FIRE DIST. #3	BFD3
15.000	CENTRAL FIRE DIST. #4	CFD4
22.500	EASTSIDE FIRE DIST. #5	ESFD
40.000	HOOPER ROAD FIRE DIST. #6	FPD6
20.000	CHANEYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT #7	CHNEY
10.000	PRIDE FIRE DISTRICT NO. #8	PFD1
15.000	ALSEN FIRE DISTRICT #9	AFD9
43.200	BAKER SCHOOL MILLAGE	BAKER SCHL
60.400	CENTRAL SCHOOL MILLAGE	CENTRAL SCHL
79.200	ZACHARY SCHOOL MILLAGE	ZACH. SCHL
6.220	CITY OF BAKER	BAKER CITY
3.170	CITY OF ZACHARY	ZACHARY
3.840	CONSOLIDATED ROAD LIGHTING DIST. 1	RLD1
2.520	COMITE DIVERSION CANAL	CANAL
10.000	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DIST.	DTDD
3.470	PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DIST.	LEVEE
10.600	BR CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM	BRCATS
10.600	BAKER CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM	BKCATS