

# KDL PROPOSES LOWER MILLAGE

Cast Your Vote  
Nov. 7, 2023

New rate of 1.1 mills

**10.9%  
REDUCTION**

off current rate,  
which translates to  
\$3.1 million in annual  
savings for taxpayers.

**5-STAR LIBRARY  
SERVICE\***

The new rate will sustain  
and grow access to our  
**700,000 physical items, 15.6  
million digital items** and all  
of our **programs & services.**

“KDL works to foster a  
lifelong love of reading,  
learning and critical  
thinking, while providing  
resources that are open  
and welcoming to all in  
our community.”

Lance Werner,  
KDL Executive Director



Kent District Library is  
ranked as a 5-star library  
by *Library Journal*, which  
is the top national ranking  
for public libraries based  
on cost to taxpayers and  
utilization of services.

Kent  
District  
Library



# Millage Fast Facts

- » Voters will be asked to approve the renewal of the KDL millage on Nov. 7.
- » The 1.1 mills rate is a 10.9% reduction.
- » The typical household will pay \$145.75 annually for KDL services — or \$2.80/week.
- » If approved, KDL will maintain the same level of service and collection access.



**O**n Nov. 7, residents in the KDL service area will be asked to consider a new millage rate of 1.1 mills, reflecting a reduction of 10.9% off our current millage rate. If the millage is approved, taxpayers will see immediate savings as our Board has committed to lowering the rate effective Jan. 1, 2024, even though the current millage doesn't expire until Dec. 31, 2024.

If approved, the lower millage will save taxpayers \$3.1 million annually or \$46.5 million over its lifetime.

We serve residents through 20 branches, an Express Library, a bookmobile, our main Service Center, 5,600-plus annual programs and a host of patron-focused services.

"KDL is able to lower its millage because we are part of a thriving and growing community where new taxable real estate has produced more revenue," said KDL Board Chair Andy Erlewein. "As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we want to lock in savings for residents now.

"The reduced millage will allow KDL to continue offering our current slate of programs and services – and to add new

materials, programs, events and services at our historic rates. We remain committed to providing vital access to information, programs and services for more than 440,000 residents in our service area in Kent County."

Last year, we logged more than 2.1 million interactions with patrons, including branch visits, event participation and virtual program attendance. KDL has over 140,000 patrons, adding 20,395 new cardholders last year.

KDL offers more than 5,600 programs and outreach events each year, from our popular storytimes, learning labs and craft classes to book clubs, concerts and special activity and interest groups. Program and outreach attendance grew more than 61% in 2022.

"Our branches provide a critical 'third place,' distinct from home and work, that allows residents to build important connections with their neighbors," said KDL Executive Director Lance Werner.

"This millage will support the programs and services we offer. As an organization, we very much reflect the needs and wishes of each community we serve. From

young learners to senior scholars, we offer age-appropriate materials, programs and services that reflect the diverse interests and points of view of our entire community."

KDL employs 346 people and receives more than 4,000 hours annually from more than 500 volunteers. We are governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Kent County Board of Commissioners.

"If voters approve the millage, they will continue to enjoy the collections, digital access, programs, services and events they have come to know and love," Werner said. "We would, however, be forced to close our doors without a voter-approved operating millage, since nearly 90% of our funding comes from the millage."

LEARN MORE



[KDL.org/millage](https://www.kdl.org/millage)