

Fulton County Libraries: Building for the Future Fact Sheet

Who

The voters of Fulton County go to the general election polls this November to vote on new, expanded and renovated libraries.

What

- \$275 million bond referendum for capital improvements to the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
- 8 new branch libraries, 2 expanded libraries and 23 renovated libraries
- Fulton County Board of Commissioners voted to place the bond referendum on the November ballot based on a recommended facility master plan presented by the Library's Board of Trustees
- Includes \$85 million to build a new Central Library, with the remaining funds to come from the private sector

Why

With significant population growth in Fulton County, technological advances and consistent increase in library use over the last 20+ years, many current facilities have proven to be too small in size and not ideally located, with outdated infrastructures and facilities.

Input from a series of 37 public meetings, questionnaires, surveys, web and email responses was gathered, and the public's recommendations for improved library facilities and services were incorporated to expand and refine the master plan. The last bond referendum for library improvements was 1985, in the amount of \$38 million; the vote passed by 73%.

When

The general election vote is November 4, 2008; voters must register by October 6 – which they can do at any of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System branches.

Cost

A \$150,000 Fulton County home would see a library tax increase of \$18.96 per year to support this plan, or \$1.58 per month. A \$300,000 home would pay \$37.92 per year.

About Us

- Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System is a free service, open to all people no matter their age, education or economic circumstance.
- Education, literacy and lifelong learning are provided and enhanced by great libraries.
- Today's library is a vibrant, dynamic place offering a broad array of activities, exhibits, cutting-edge technology and classes along with the traditional collections and services you expect from a public library.
- Libraries make good neighbors – with 34 libraries throughout the county acting as community centers of learning and providing economic and cultural vitality to the areas they serve.
- Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History, the first of its kind in the Southeast, offers specialized reference and archival collections for the study and research of African cultures.

- The Central Library is the hub or headquarters of the entire 34 library system – it serves all branches and library patrons with reference help, special collections, archives and research services.
- Fulton County residents love their libraries! Last year they made over 3.7 million visits to our 34 libraries; numbers continue to increase every year in our system and nationwide – libraries are more relevant today than ever.

By the Numbers

Population served: 988,337
 Registered Fulton County voters: 498,366
 Library card holders: 453,434
 Collection: 2,366,299 (books, subscriptions, DVDs, CDs, videos, e-books, etc.)
 Public computers: 681
 Annual visits: 3,701,181
 Website visits: 6,926,490
 Reference questions answered: 1,619,064
 Circulation: 3,479,086
 Children's circulation: 1,628,271
 Attendance at children's programs: 174,739

More Details About the Plan

8 New Branch Libraries:

Alpharetta
 Palmetto / Chattahoochee Hill Country
 East Roswell
 Milton
 Northwest Atlanta
 Southeast Atlanta
 Stewart-Lakewood
 Wolf Creek

2 Expanded Libraries:

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History
 South Fulton

New Central Library:

Includes \$85 million to build a new Central Library, with the additional funds to come from the private sector

23 Renovated Libraries:

Adams Park
 Adamsville/Collier Heights
 Buckhead
 Cleveland Avenue
 College Park
 Dogwood
 East Atlanta
 East Point
 Fairburn
 Hapeville
 Kirkwood
 Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mechanicsville
 Northeast/Spruill Oaks
 Northside
 Ocee
 Peachtree
 Ponce de Leon
 Roswell
 Sandy Springs
 Southwest
 Washington Park
 West End

