

**The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Shaker Heights Chapter**  
**Endorses and Recommends Support of the Library Levy,**  
**Issue 7 on the May 8, 2018 Ballot**

**Facts and Findings supporting this Recommendation:** These conclusions are based on 20 Interviews with local leaders, analysis of 39 documents and extensive discussion within the LWV GC Shaker Heights Chapter. The full report can be found on our website, [shakerlww.org](http://shakerlww.org)

- 1. The Library plays an integral role in supporting the Shaker Heights Public Schools: from essential pre-school and reading readiness support through outreach programs and Learn and Play Center to the International Baccalaureate Program.**
- 2. The Main Library serves as a community center for Shaker Heights and is an anchor in the Moreland neighborhood where it provides free wifi and readily available computer access.**
- 3. Participation in ClevNet is a valuable resource that greatly enriches our library by providing open access to millions of items. Shared catalogue services, computer equipment and professional support has resulted in the collective cost savings of regionalism while allowing local control.**
- 4. The request for the 1.9 mill Operating Levy is the first increase in 21 years. The amount of millage increase, represents only 2.64% of total property taxes paid. For this Shaker gets a high quality return for its investment.**
- 5. One-third of the money raised by the levy will be designated for operating expenses, two-thirds will be designated to renovate and upgrade the Main and Bertram Woods Library. The maintenance and upgrades help to minimize the overall cost of eventually needed repairs.**
- 6. The Shaker Heights Public Library has made numerous adjustments and has taken cost savings initiatives in the face of diminished local and state tax revenue, rising costs due to inflation, and the diminished Public Library Fund (PLF).**
- 7. The Shaker Heights Library Board of Directors did due diligence in seriously investigating the possibility of joining the Cuyahoga County Public Library system.**
- 8. Local control and management is maintained regarding budgets, operations, staffing and collections. Trading independence and all valued assets permanently for a minimal increase in taxes, representing a small percentage of overall taxes, is precipitous.**
- 9. The Shaker Library controls a valued asset in its unique collection of local Shaker History.**
- 10. Maintaining two neighborhood library branches is a valuable asset not only to Shaker residents and families, but particularly to our Middle School students, who use the Bertram Woods Branch as a walkable safe place and study area after school. If either library were to close, the schools or city would have to replace services lost, representing a cost to the city and schools.**