



## O'Fallon Public Library

### Community Survey: Executive Summary

May 2026

In April-May 2026, Discovery Works Collaborative conducted an online survey of O'Fallon residents on behalf of the O'Fallon Public Library. The purpose of the survey was to better understand area residents' perceptions of and priorities for the library. Five hundred fifty three (553) surveys were completed, and results are weighted by gender.

#### Rating the O'Fallon Public Library

When asked to rate "the overall quality of services provided by the O'Fallon Public Library," a majority (55.8%) rated the library an "A," and more than a quarter (27.5%) rated it a "B." Almost no (0.3%) respondents rated the library "D" or "Fail."

#### Statements about local issues.

Respondents were presented with several "statements that some people might make about local issues" and asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with each. Majorities agreed with most statements in this section, especially those that touched on the library's role in the community and the importance of providing the type and level of services needed by the community.

- The Library greatly contributes to the high quality of life found in O'Fallon. (86.6%, strongly/somewhat agree)
- Our Library is a source of pride in O'Fallon. (78.3%)
- Our library should offer a full range of classes and events for all age groups, young and old alike. (77.2%)
- With our city having doubled in population in 30 years, it only makes sense that we need a larger library. (64.1%)
- I'm willing to pay more in taxes to make sure we have an up-to-date and large enough public library in our community. (58.7%)
- People like me can't afford higher property taxes regardless of the cause. (53.9%)
- There is not enough space in our current library for the number of children and adults who use it. (47.7%)
- With so much technology in homes, public libraries are simply not needed. (17.3%)



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## Prioritizing features of a possible new library

Respondents were told that “during the past few months, the Together O’Fallon community engagement program has worked on prioritizing features for a possible new library” and asked to place priorities on a list of possible new features of a new library. Majorities placed “high” or “very high” priorities on most items in this section, especially several items related to providing space for the community’s use.

- Quiet areas for silent activities (77.1%, very high/high priority)
- Learning and play areas for children (70.6%)
- Multipurpose rooms for community use (68.8%)
- Flexible space that can be cost-effectively adapted for current and future needs (68.7%)
- Study rooms for adults and children (68.0%)
- Makerspace area for arts, crafts, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) projects (67.8%)
- Group collaboration and workrooms (65.0%)
- After-school club and activity areas for teens (62.7%)
- Sensory room designed for individuals with sensory processing needs (autism, PTSD, anxiety) (55.9%)
- Memory lab for genealogy research, oral histories, digitization and more (49.8%)
- A one-level library fully accessible for those who are physically challenged (48.5%)
- A coffee shop (that would generate revenue for the Library) (44.3%)

## Possible library bond proposal

Respondents were asked their opinion about a possible bond proposal on behalf of the library. Initially, they were told that “O’Fallon Public Library is considering a bond proposal to support the construction of a new library building” and that “while the exact amount has not been decided, for purposes of this question, let’s assume it was for \$22.5 million dollars.” A majority (56.8%) said they would favor this proposal, while a third (33.5%) were opposed.

Respondents were then told that “a \$22.5 million bond proposal would cost the average homeowner — a \$275,000 market value house — about \$10.02 per month or \$2.31 per week.” Having heard this information, slightly fewer (54.1%) said they favored the proposal, while almost two in five (39.2%) were opposed.

Near the end of the survey, respondents were asked to reconsider this possible proposal. Support was similar to when asked near the start of the survey, with almost three in five (58.2%) in favor and 38.2% opposed.



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## Statements about a possible proposal

Respondents were also asked to consider a number of “statements people might make about a possible bond proposal for a new O’Fallon Public Library” and indicate how convincing they found each to be. Statements related to the funding plan for the library and the increased size of a new library were “very” or “moderately” convincing to the largest percentages of respondents.

- Part of the cost will be covered by \$5 million our library has saved and can now be used to offset the total cost of a new facility. (68.9%, very/moderately convincing)
- The new library will be more than twice as large as the existing library, and space for children will more than quadruple. That’s just what our growing community needs. (62.8%)
- Studies show that expanding and updating the current library is a good use of tax dollars. (61.1%)
- We take great pride in living in O’Fallon. Investing in a new library will be just another example showing how we feel about the quality of life of our community. (60.5%)
- There’s a library card in more than 6 in 10 O’Fallon households. With our population growth, it’s time for a new and larger library. (58.0%)
- Many library programs and events reach capacity quickly, meaning residents are often turned away due to space limitations. (51.6%)
- Many of us often leave a \$2.50 tip at the local coffee shop. That’s not much to pay a week for an up-to-date library that can serve our entire community for generations to come. (48.0%)
- The plan to improve our library was developed by community members. It’s time to support their hard work. (47.3%)
- Even with a new library, staffing and operating costs will stay the same. (47.0%)
- With all that is going on locally and nationally, now is just not a good time for a bond proposal. (46.8%)
- Our current library is good enough. We don’t need to spend money on a new one. (44.3%)