

THREE RIVERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Fact Sheet

What type of library is Three Rivers Public Library?

There are 9 different types of library establishments in Michigan, they can be formed as city (3 types), village, township (2 types), county, school-public, or district libraries. The type of library determines the board type, number of trustees, trustee terms, how trustees are appointed, and more.

Three Rivers Public Library is established as a City Library under 1877 PA 164 Section 1, MCL 397.201.

How does the library type determine the board?

Under 1877 PA 164, section 2, (MCL 297.202), A City Section 1 library should have a 5 member appointed board from the citizens at large. Our trustees are appointed by the City Council.

If the library is for the city how do township residents get access?

Act 164 of 1877 City, Village, and Township Libraries 397.213 says that a library may enter into a contract for the use of library services from an adjacent township, village, or city.

Local townships have the option to provide their residents with access to the Three Rivers Public Library through a contract.

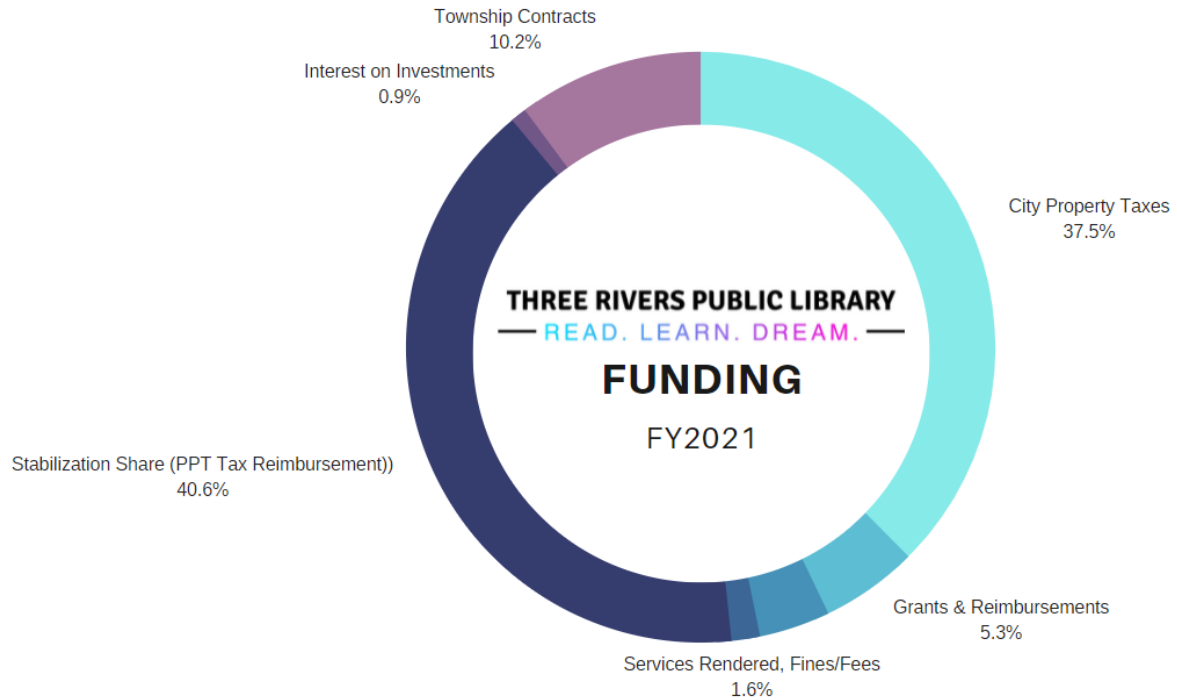
Why don't the contracting townships have a vote?

Legal advice from the Library of Michigan's Library Law Consultant said this: "Citizens at large arguable means that the Board members for a city library are chosen from the citizens of the city. Generally, the Boards of Libraries under 1877 PA 164 do not include contracting municipalities on their boards – especially as voting members. If two or more municipalities wish to share governance of a library, they arguably should form a District Library under 1989 PA 24. Another consideration is that the Legal Service area residents pay a significantly larger per-capita amount than the contracted areas do. To give the contracted municipalities a seat at the board – especially with a vote – could be interpreted as unfair as the contracted municipalities would be receiving everything for a lesser cost."

While township representatives do not have a vote, they have a voice on our board. The TRPL board asks for and considers the input from the township representatives for every vote.

How is the library funded?

A majority of the funding for the library comes from the communities we serve through city taxes and township contracts. Funding is also obtained from penal fines & state aid, services rendered, fines/fees, interest on investments, grants, and fundraising. While the breakdown is different each fiscal year, here is an example of the funding for a FY:



Township Contract information

Act 89 of 1977 State Aid to Public Libraries 397.555 Eligibility Sec. 5a states that libraries must maintain a minimum of local support of 3/10 of a mill on taxable value in the fiscal year before October 1 of the year before distribution. Falling below this level will make the library ineligible for funding from the state. To maintain this level, the library requires contracting townships to cover the minimum portion of this requirement for their area.

Each year the state calculates the minimum monetary support requirement for each area we serve. For instance our fiscal year 2019, the requirements for each township we contract with were as follows:

Municipality Served	Percent	Contracted Population	Taxable Value	3/10 Mill. Requirement (For Lockport and Park this is calculated as 50% of 3/10).	Local Income Received (from contracts)
Fabius Twp.	100	3248	191,954,028	57,586.00	44,659.00
Lockport Twp.	50	1894	53,906,400	16,172.00 (50% of 3/10 Mill.)	15,352.00