

WAYNE COUNTY

Livonia City Council OKs putting \$150M bond proposal before voters in August



Julia Card

The Detroit News

May 1, 2025, 6:53 p.m. ET

Livonia voters will decide on Aug. 5 whether to approve a new police station, library, city center plaza and renovations to the western Wayne County suburb's five fire stations, after the City Council this week approved a \$150 million bond proposal to go on the ballot.

The bond debt would be repaid over 25 years through a 1.43-mill property tax. If approved, the millage would cost a homeowner \$1.43 per \$1,000 of their property's taxable value.

Councilmember Rob Donovic, who chairs the council's Capital Outlay and Infrastructure Committee, believes it's more financially responsible for Livonia to invest in new buildings, such as the library and police station, rather than continue to put money into outdated and aging facilities.

"Over 100,000 people a year go through some of these municipal buildings there. There's a lot of wear and tear, and we're spending a lot of good taxpayer money on these buildings," Donovic told The Detroit News.

[City officials have told The News their public safety facilities are cramped](#) and don't meet the modern needs of the fire and police departments. For example, fire trucks are taller and longer than they were when the stations were built in the 1960s, leaving little clearance in the garages for the current trucks equipped with ladders

to pull in. A police captain told The News during a previous tour that the department needs more space for meetings, storage and locker rooms.

Donovic said Livonia's library has strong programming, but it lacks amenities a modern library needs, such as sufficient outlets for patrons to plug laptop computers into and adequate wireless internet access. The ballot proposal also includes funding for a plaza at the city center, with a connected loop for walking and biking linking to existing parks. The plaza could potentially include a splash pad, fountain, amphitheater or other amenities depending on resident input, according to a news release.

Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan has made the city's need to reverse the trend of its aging and declining population, by making Livonia more attractive to young people, a key part of her public pitch for the ballot measure.

“This investment would upgrade police and fire facilities and create new spaces where our children can learn and play,” she said in a statement. “The goal is to build the infrastructure that keeps our residents and attracts young families.”

Voters can pick up absentee ballots in person at the city clerk's office starting June 26, according to the news release.

jcadi@detroitnews.com