



West Plains Public Library

Non-Resident Fee Policy

The West Plains Public Library is funded by a library tax on real estate and personal property paid by residents and businesses within the taxing district of the City of West Plains. Individuals who do not own property inside the City of West Plains taxing district do not pay any taxes that fund the West Plains Public Library.

To continue to provide a current and relevant collection, a safe and pleasant environment, and quality services for all, the library must be adequately funded by all of its users. This is the purpose of the non-resident fee. Therefore, anyone living outside the city limits of West Plains will need to pay a non-resident fee to obtain a library card. The fee covers all members of the current household. A library card is required for borrowing privileges and for some services the library offers. The average fee, paid by property owners, is currently calculated as follows:

The total real estate and property tax income collected during the last fiscal year is divided by the local population of the library district to determine the patron cost of service per capita. That amount is then multiplied by the average number of people per household within the library district to obtain the average cost per household.

Based on the calculations as of January 1, 2025, the nonresident fee shall be \$40.00 per household. The nonresident fee will be recalculated every five years. Persons living outside the city limits but providing a tax statement as proof of payment of real estate and personal property taxes to West Plains will not be charged the fee. The card will be renewable yearly on the expiration date. This card is for all family members at one address. It is not transferable to people who do not reside at the cardholder's residence.

Service Area and Non-Resident Library Cards

Library cards are issued free of charge to residents living within the West Plains city limits/Library District. Residents of Howell County, who live outside the city limits, may obtain a library card for an annual fee of \$40.00 per household.

Individuals residing outside of Howell County may also obtain a non-resident library card for an annual fee of \$40.00 per household. However, out of county, non-resident, cardholders are limited to borrowing physical materials only and are not eligible for access to library digital services i.e. Hoopla, Libby, Kanopy, or NewsBank.

Policy approved at the November 2024 meeting of the West Plains Public Library Board of Trustees, Jarryd Alsup, presiding. Revised at the October 2025 meeting, Jarryd Alsup presiding.