



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Henry Oyekanmi, Director, Finance Department

Subject: FY 2026 Tax Rate: Fund Debt Service on Neighborhood Branch Library Improvements Project General Obligation Bonds (Measure FF, November 2008 Election)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance setting the FY 2026 tax rate for funding the debt service on the Neighborhood Branch Library Improvements Project General Obligation Bonds (Measure FF, November 2008 Election) at 0.0040%.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The tax levy of the recommended 0.0040% will result in estimated collections of \$1,250,000. This amount (along with existing funds on hand) is sufficient to make the debt service payments on March 1, 2026 and September 1, 2026.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The 0.0040% tax rate for FY 2026 being set by the City Council is based on the debt service, the estimated FY 2026 assessed values for all rolls (secured, unsecured and utility), a delinquency reserve of 5%, and the surplus remaining in the fund. Since Alameda County does not release final assessed value figures until early August, the City is using preliminary values. Staff is confident that the preliminary values will not be materially different from the County's final figure. The City must establish a tax rate that will be sufficient to make debt service payments even if there are unusual levels of delinquency. The tax rate in FY 2026 is a decrease in the rate charged in FY 2025.

Because all taxes collected from the general obligation levy will be deposited in a special fund, and collections not used to pay debt service for the FY 2026 bond year will be retained in the fund to pay future obligations, the tax impact of any over-collection will be credited against the next debt service payments and the required levy.

It is recommended that the City Council authorize a FY 2026 tax rate of 0.0040% which will result in the following cost to the average homeowner during FY 2026:

Annual Tax		
Assessed Value	FY 2025 Tax	FY 2026 Tax
\$150,000	\$7.20	\$6.00
250,000	12.00	10.00
300,000	14.40	12.00
400,000	19.20	16.00
500,000	24.00	20.00
600,000	28.80	24.00
700,000	33.60	28.00
800,000	38.40	32.00
900,000	43.20	36.00
1,000,000	48.00	40.00

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the residents of Berkeley voted for and approved Ballot Measure FF, in the sum of \$26,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at the four neighborhood branch libraries (excluding the Central Library).

The indebtedness on the total bonds issued of \$26,000,000 is payable solely from the levy of an ad valorem tax against taxable property in the City. The proceeds of the bonds were used to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at the four neighborhood branch libraries (excluding the Central Library).

\$10,000,000 of the \$26,000,000 in authorized bonds were issued in 2009, and the remaining \$16,000,000 of bonds were issued in 2010. The tax rate above reflects the debt service payments for the fiscal year.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

- 1: Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

SETTING THE FY 2026 TAX RATE FOR FUNDING THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (MEASURE FF, NOVEMBER 2008 ELECTION) IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. The FY 2026 tax rate for the debt service on the General Obligation Bonds is set at 0.0040%.

Section 2. The Tax Rate will be based on the estimated assessed values for all rolls (secured, unsecured, and utility) and will become a part of the FY 2026 property tax bill.

Section 3. This Tax Rate will result in estimated total collections of \$1,250,000 needed to make the March 1, 2026 and September 1, 2026 debt service payments on the outstanding General Obligation Bonds.

Section 4. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

