



July 15, 2026

Common Council
City of Wauwatosa
7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

To the Honorable Members of the Common Council,

The Wauwatosa Public Library (WPL) Board of Trustees has collaborated with the city to examine the library facility and consider how WPL can continue to best fulfill its mission. The library board supports building concept options three and four because they provide the best opportunity to create a purpose-built library that can effectively and efficiently serve the community for decades to come.

WPL's mission is to strengthen our community and enrich lives by providing equitable access to information, encouraging reading and lifelong discovery, and providing welcoming spaces to connect and create.

WPL is distinguished by a high level of community use. More than 1,000 people visit the library every day. Children's library circulation ranks among the top three in Wisconsin, and WPL has one of the highest usage among libraries of its size in the nation. Demand for meeting rooms and study rooms exceeds available space as residents seek places to connect, collaborate, and learn. Programming for children, teens, and adults has also grown significantly.

As WPL's needs assessment states, WPL is clearly an important local hub for community engagement. While WPL retains an important role as a repository for collections and resources, it is increasingly important that WPL operate in a setting that fosters and facilitates connections – between users and the information they seek as well as between and among groups of users.

The library board believes options three and four offer a fundamentally better long-term solution than remodeling the existing library and city hall. Rather than fitting library services into a constrained building configuration, a new library can be intentionally designed around how libraries serve their communities today and into the future. An efficient, purpose-built layout will better support collections, programming, technology, study and meeting spaces, and the needs of the more than 1,000 people who use WPL each day. The library board believes this approach will allow WPL to operate more effectively and efficiently while providing the welcoming, functional spaces our community expects and deserves.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your continued support of the Wauwatosa Public Library.

Respectfully,

The Wauwatosa Public Library Board of Trustees