

The Appleton Public Library was built in 1981 and has seen a significant increase in its usage since then. Annual visits have increased and annual checkouts have more than doubled. In fact, the Appleton Library has the highest circulation of any single site library in the state. Community demands of the library have increased in the areas of technology, job and career searches, working through life changing experiences such as grief, divorce, unexpected job loss, etc. Demands for meeting use has increased to the point that some groups have had to be turned away due to the high usage volume. As more non-profit organizations rely on the library for a free space in which to extend their services and programs, there is a need for more need for space than the current library can offer.

In 2014, the League of Women Voters of Appleton reached consensus on a position regarding the Appleton Public Library following a two year study. The League supports the library as a basic community service that provides services in the areas of technology, the arts, literacy, career and other activities. The League believes that the physical space of the library needs to provide flexibility, space for all phases of life, special needs and groups of people as well as separate spaces for both quiet and noisy activities along with a sustainable design concept. The League believes in good government and that an improved public library would provide good government through economic stimulus to the community and helping to create a nation of informed and active citizens while serving as a cradle of democracy. This requires funding and the League believes that the funding should be primarily public money with private donations to augment the public funds. The League of Women Voters supports the Appleton Public Library.