

Q. What is the Library's Proposed Budget for 2021? What portion comes from taxes?

A. The total proposed budget is \$4,756,999. The portion of the budget raised from property taxes is \$4,606,724. Other revenue sources include fines and fees, grants, and other public funds.

Q. What is the impact on tax rates and individual taxpayers?

A. The estimated tax rate for Clifton Park is 1.2326, an increase of 0.03%.

The estimated tax rate for Halfmoon is 1.1077, a decrease of 2.88%

The market value of properties continues to change at different rates between the two towns. As a result, tax rates – which are based on the assessed values – are different depending on what town you reside in. However, properties of equal market value will have the same tax bill no matter what town they are in.

Q. Is the Library subject to the tax cap legislation?

A. Yes, the Library budget is subject to the tax legislation that sets a limit on levy increases. The Library's proposed levy for 2021 is \$4,606,724 which is the same as the levy in 2020. As there is no increase, the proposed levy is within the tax cap limit.

Q. What were the main challenges impacting the 2021 Budget?

A. With the economic hardship of our community in mind, the Board made a unanimous decision not to increase the tax impact on homeowners in 2021.

Q. What is the largest category of Library expenses?

A. As in any service organization, staff salaries and benefits are the largest single category of cost, about 59% of the total proposed budget.

Q. How many trustees are being elected this year and for what towns?

A. There are two Clifton Park trustee seats that expire on December 31, 2020. The Clifton Park seats are both for 5 year terms.

Q. Who are the candidates?

A. By the legislated deadline of August 18, 2020, two petitions have been filed for the two Clifton Park seats. **The trustee candidates are: Edwin Rodger and Suzanne Dugan.**

Q. How is the Library used by the community?

A. Active card-carrying patrons now total over 43,000. Nearly 750,000 items were borrowed in 2019 including books, DVDs, ebooks, downloadable audiobooks and digital magazines, streaming video and music. Over 30,000 individuals attended over 1400 library programs in 2019.

Hundreds of community organizations used the program rooms for meetings and programs.

Over 400,000 people came to the Library in 2019 – an average of 1,200 people per day.

Q. How do you measure the value of the Library to the community?

A. We find value is often unique to each user. For instance, parents and grandparents see great value in introducing children to the joy of reading and through attendance at library programs. The Library offers assistance for job seekers, technology training programs and research assistance. The use of Library resources delivers a return on investment to the community that is three times greater than the annual budget, when compared to the cost of widely accepted commercial alternatives. It's clear the Library fulfills a wide range of needs based on the growth in the demand for all types of library services and programs. Every day over 1,200 people walk through the Library doors to borrow books, DVDs, audiobooks, attend programs, or simply use the library as a place to read, study or meet a friend.

Q. When is the Library Budget Vote and where is it held?

A. The Annual Library Budget Vote will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2020 as prescribed in our legislated charter and will be held at the Library at 475 Moe Road between 7am and 9pm. Registered voters, both renters and property owners, living in the Library District are eligible to vote after showing proof of address. Voters must be registered at least 30 days prior to the vote. Absentee ballot applications are available online at www.cphlibrary.org or at library service desks for those unable to vote at the library on September 17.

Q. I have concerns about the pandemic. May I vote using an absentee ballot?

A. Recent legislation approved by the Governor of New York authorizes voters to request an absentee ballot based on “risk of contracting or spreading a disease that may cause illness to the voter or other members of the public”. Absentee ballot applications are available online at www.cphlibrary.org. In order for ballots to be mailed, *applications* must be received by the Library no later than the close of business on Tuesday September 8, 2020. Ballots must be returned to the Library by the end of business on Wednesday September 16, 2020 in order to be counted.

Q. How do I get more information?

A. The *Voter Information Brochure* was mailed to Library District residents in August and is available at www.cphlibrary.org. There will be informational recordings posted on the website about the budget and by the two trustee candidates by September 1, 2020. You may also contact Alex Gutelius, Director at 518-371-8622.