

Q. What is the Library's Proposed Budget for 2022? What portion comes from taxes?

A. The total proposed budget is \$4,830,937. The portion of the budget raised from property taxes is \$4,737,304. 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 1.2400, an increase of 0.57%.

The estimated tax rate for Halfmoon is 1.1561, an increase of 4.34%

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 2022 is \$4,737,304 which is within the levy limit. The estimate maximum allowable levy limit for 2022 is \$4,787,982.

Q. What were the main challenges impacting the 2022 Budget?

A. The Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that focuses on achieving the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. The proposed 2022 budget supports the provision of vibrant physical and virtual spaces, developing diverse collections and programs, investing in the creating use of technology, and supporting the staff who will help the goals become a reality.

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 Halfmoon trustee seats and one Clifton Park trustee seat that expire on December 31, 2021. All three positions are for 5 year terms.

Q. Who are the candidates?

A. By the legislated deadline of August 24, 2021, two petitions have been filed for the two Halfmoon seats and one petition has been filed for the Clifton Park seat.. **The trustee candidates for Halfmoon are: Russell Wise and Thomas Madison. The trustee candidate for Clifton Park is Jason DiGianni.**

Q. How is the Library used by the community?

- A. Active card-carrying patrons now total over 43,000. Prior to the pandemic, an average of 1,200 people used the Library every day. During the pandemic, use of electronic materials (ebooks, downloadable audio books, streaming video and TV) increased by 300%. Virtual programs were offered and curbside delivery began as soon as possible. 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.

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 23, 2021 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 23.

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

- A. Voter are able 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 Monday September 13, 2021. Ballots must be returned to the Library by the end of business on Wednesday September 22, 2021 in order to be counted.

Q. How do I get more information?

- A. The *Voter Information Brochure* was be 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, 2021. You may also contact Alex Gutelius, Director at 518-371-8622.