

Q. What is the Library's Proposed Budget for 2023? What portion comes from taxes?

A. The total proposed budget is \$4,982,403. The portion of the budget raised from property taxes is \$4,921,020. 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 1.2587, an increase of 1.51%.

The estimated tax rate for Halfmoon is 1.2189, an increase of 5.44%

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 2023 is \$4,921,020 which is within the levy limit. The estimated maximum allowable levy limit for 2023 is \$4,977,492.

Q. What were the main challenges impacting the 2023 Budget?

A. The Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that focuses on achieving the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. The proposed 2023 budget supports the provision of vibrant physical and virtual spaces, developing diverse collections and programs, investing in the creative 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 that expire on December 31, 2022. Both positions are for 5-year terms.

Q. Who are the candidates?

A. By the legislated deadline of August 16, 2023, two petitions have been filed for the two Halfmoon seats. **The trustee candidates for Halfmoon are: Maria McMunn, Megan Brown.**

Q. How is the Library used by the community?

A. In 2022 more than 600 programs were offered, both virtually and in-person, attended by over 11,000 children, teens, and adults. 1,400 people signed up for new cards. There was an increase in circulation of traditional library materials, such as books and movies, by nearly 106,000 items. And 1,300 more patrons began borrowing digital materials.

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.

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

A. The Annual Library Budget Vote will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 as prescribed in our legislated charter and will be held at the Library at 475 Moe Road between 7 am and 9 pm. 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 15.

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

A. Voters 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 Friday, September 2, 2022. Ballots must be returned to the Library by the end of business on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 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 8, 2022. You may also contact Alex Gutelius, Director at 518-371-8622.