

**Q. What is the Library's Proposed Budget for 2025? What portion comes from taxes?**

A. The total proposed budget is \$5,370,542. The portion of the budget raised from property taxes is \$5,251,560. 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 1.3427, an increase of 0.96%.

The estimated tax rate for Halfmoon is 1.2498, an increase of 2.41%

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 2025 is \$5,251,560 which is within the levy limit. The estimated maximum allowable levy limit for 2025 is \$5,254,842.

**Q. What were the main challenges impacting the 2025 Budget?**

A. The Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that focuses on achieving the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. The proposed 2025 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 62% 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, 2024. Both positions are for 5-year terms.

**Q. Who are the candidates?**

A. By the legislated deadline of August 13, 2024, one petition had been filed for the two Clifton Park seats. **The trustee candidate for Clifton Park is Mat Cantore.**

**Q. How will the vacant seat be filled?**

A. The sitting trustees will proceed to appoint a trustee for a one year appointment to the remaining Clifton Park seat.

**Q. How is the Library used by the community?**

A. In 2023 more than 1,175 programs were offered, both virtually and in-person, attended by over 35,000 children, teens, and adults. In addition, 3400 Grab & Go programs were provided. 2,373 people signed up for new cards. There was an increase in circulation of traditional library materials, such as books and movies, and nearly 110,000 ebooks and downloadable audiobooks were borrowed.

**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 help 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 is clear the Library fulfills a wide range of needs based on the growth of 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 12, 2024 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](http://www.cphlibrary.org) or at library service desks for those unable to vote at the Library on September 12.

**Q. If I am unable to vote in person on September 12, what are my options?**

A. Voters are able to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available online at [www.cphlibrary.org](http://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 3, 2024. Ballots must be returned to the Library by the end of business on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 in order to be counted.

**Q. How do I get more information?**

A. The **Voter Information Brochure** will be posted on the Library's website at [www.cphlibrary.org](http://www.cphlibrary.org) and paper copies will be available in the Library. There will be an informational meeting on September 5, 2024 at 7pm. You may also contact Alex Gutelius, Director at 518-371-8622.