

About the 2021 Library Budget Vote

On October 14th, NOPL taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote on the 2021 library budget. Residents of Brewerton, Cicero and North Syracuse consistently show support for their libraries, and the trustees, administration and staff would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. A small tax increase will make it possible for us to maintain the quality library services and programs you have come to expect.

Questions and Answers about the Budget Vote

- ***How can I vote?***
 - (1) **In Person:** Due to Covid-19, in-person voting will be in the barn at the Cicero Library for all the libraries from Noon until 7 p.m. on Wednesday October 14th. This will allow for social distancing. Each library will have its own table. A large map will be on display to help you determine which NOPL library is your voting location. You can also find a PDF of the map at nopl.org/budgetvote. Please note that you must be registered with the Onondaga County Board of Elections.
 - (2) **By Mail/Absentee:** you can download and print a ballot on our website at nopl.org/budgetvote, request one to be included in your curbside pickup, or we can mail one to you. Completed ballots can be returned to the library by mail, through the book-drop, or in-person. All mail/absentee ballots must be received by October 14 to be counted. If you would like a ballot included when you pick up items, let the library know when you call to schedule your pickup appointment. If you need one mailed to you, please call (315) 699-2534.
- ***What is the tax request for 2021?*** \$2,593,270
- ***Is this a tax increase?*** Yes, it is an increase of 1% which is within New York State's property tax cap. For homeowners with a house valued at \$100,000, their library tax will equal \$64.35 or \$45.05 based on STAR exemption.
- ***Why is an increase needed?*** In 2020, we spent time and resources to make sure our spaces are safe for our staff and patrons. In 2021, we will continue to make our facilities safer by improving the indoor air quality. We will be increasing our digital content, online resources, and improve outreach services.

Return on Investment (What do NOPL Libraries offer?)

- Last year *600,871 books, magazines, DVD's, music CD's, digital materials and audiobooks* were checked out or downloaded. *17,629 people attended 1,735 library programs*. We provide access to homework help, test preparation, general research and language databases. *Librarians worked one-on-one with 2,962 patrons around technology and workforce development*. A total of *209,041 people visited* NOPL in 2019.
- Our *mobile Pop-Up Library* and *Senior Book Delivery* make books available in more locations and during hours when the libraries are closed. Before Covid-19 we offered *Curbside Holds Pickup* at our Cicero branch for patrons' convenience. We are now offering it all the branches.
- Our libraries offer *high speed Internet, wireless Internet access and printing*. There are *computers* available for use within the library or take home a *hotspot kit with a Chromebook*, and the Brewerton Library's *Preservation Studio* provides digitization technology to convert VHS tapes to DVD and save photos, negatives and slides as digital copies.
- NOPL's *Summer Reading Program* helps students maintain reading skills and enriches their lives and their vocabularies. In 2019, *4258 kids, teens and parents attended 249 programs*, and *613 children & teens read 9,035 books*.

- We offer *experiences and learning opportunities for adults*. Among the possibilities...get help with a resume or job application, get help with a mobile device, attend a lecture, take a yoga class, listen to a concert, join a book club or a knitting group, or grow vegetables and learn from other gardeners through our *LibraryFarm* project.
- We removed the barrier of fines for all patrons for the remainder of 2020!

REVENUES				
Tax Allocation	\$2,593,270		Interest Income est.	\$3,000
Fines & Fees est.	\$15,000		State funding	\$13,176
Donations est.	\$2,000		State Construction grant funds	\$127,418
			TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,753,864
EXPENSES				
MATERIALS			Facility Supplies	\$7,000
Materials	\$298,560		Insurance	\$41,100
Supplies, Processing & Shipping	\$11,500		Security	\$5,000
total materials	\$299,250		Taxes/Governmental Services	\$2,246
LIBRARY PROGRAMMING			total facilities	\$483,346
Programs - Adult and Teen	\$6,000			
Programs - Children	\$9,000		TECHNOLOGY	\$113,722
Additional Program Expenses	\$5,012			
total programming	\$20,012		OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	
PERSONNEL AND BENEFITS			Marketing/Community Information	\$27,699
Payroll	\$1,214,481		Office Supplies	\$13,500
Payroll Taxes	\$103,231		OCPL Charge	\$41,310
Payroll Fees	\$5,500		Board Expenses	\$6,500
Insurance Medical	\$190,000		Mileage Pop Up Library	\$1,800
Employee Assistance Program	\$1,120		Legal Services	\$2,000
Pension	\$130,000		Audit and Accountant Services	\$18,500
total personnel & benefits	\$1,644,331		Bookkeeping Services	\$19,584
FACILITIES			Staff Development, Conference & Travel	\$6,500
Capital Improvement	\$105,000		Dues/Subscriptions	\$2,000
Telephone	\$6,000		Pop Up Library vehicle	\$2,500
Utilities	\$42,000		Miscellaneous	\$2,500
Maintenance - Building	\$71,000		Security Contract	\$28,000
Maintenance - Contract	\$214,000		total other	\$172,393
			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,753,864