

LIBRARY PROPOSITION: 2022-23 BUDGET VOTE

Overview of Request

The Skaneateles Library Association is requesting a 4% increase in public funding for its operational budget to offset increases in expenses. The requested increase in dollars is \$14,000, raising the current \$350,000 annual levy to \$364,000. These funds will help support the library's services and are not for use in capital projects.

Background on Public Funding

In 2016, the library requested local public funding for the first time in its history. School district residents approved the library's request to provide an annual levy of \$350,000. At the time, we were one of only two libraries in New York State that did not receive local public funding.

Positive Impact of Public Funds

These funds have truly been a game changer for the library, allowing for increased programming, services, digital resources, overdue payroll increases, and stabilization of investments. We've also enjoyed a noticeable increase in positive feedback from community members.

Why an Increase is Needed

In the six (6) years since 2016, the library's expenses have increased (see table). Starting in 2019, library trustees have reviewed annually the potential need for an increase in public funding. Due to the pandemic, an increase request for the current fiscal year was not recommended.

	2016/17* Actual	2017/18* Actual	2018/19* Actual	2019/20* Actual (COVID)	2020/21* Actual (COVID)	2021/22* Budget
Library Expenses	371,796	432,046	487,187	424,108	407,957	466,072
Levy	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000

**The library's fiscal year is October 1 to September 30*

To date, the library has covered increased operating expenses using income from investments, proceeds from its annual book sale, donations and grants.

Additional Considerations

- > Inflation from 2016 to 2021 = 15.8% (bls.gov inflation calculator)
- > NYS minimum wage increases from \$9.00/hr in 2016 to \$13.20/hr in 2022 (a 47% increase) with planned increases to \$15.00/hr
- > COVID-19 impacted 2020 and 2021 by increasing some expenses and reducing others. Some ongoing impacts will likely continue.

LIBRARY PROPOSITION: 2022-23 BUDGET VOTE

What a 4% Increase Means for Each Household

The following table illustrates what a 4% increase would mean for a range of property values, as well as the new annual totals for these properties. The average and median property values in the school district are \$348,932 and \$225,000, respectively.

Town of Skaneateles* Assessed Property Value	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$800,000
Current annual library levy	\$37.06	\$74.12	\$148.24
Increase per household	\$1.48	\$2.96	\$5.92
Total 2022-23 library levy with 4% increase	\$38.54	\$77.08	\$154.16

** Values vary slightly but are very similar for the municipalities of Owasco, Spafford, Sennett, Niles and Marcellus — portions of which are in the Skaneateles Central School District.*

Regular Increases are Common Practice

Surrounding libraries request and receive regular increases in public funding to help offset increased expenses. For example, OCPL libraries receive between 76% and 98% of their budgets from local public funds, with the average at around 92%. The Skaneateles Library receives about 80% of its budget from public funding.

Proposition

The following proposition will be on the Skaneateles School District annual budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2022:

Shall the sum to be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Skaneateles Central School District for the purpose of funding the Skaneateles Library Association be increased by \$14,000 to the sum of \$364,000 annually?

PLEASE NOTE:

The library's proposition is unrelated to the school budget. New York State gives residents a direct say in local library funding through the school district vote, but the budgets are separate. The district merely collects funds approved by the voters and disburses them to the library. School taxes fund the schools, and library taxes fund the library.

Please contact director Nickie Marquis at nickie@skanlibrary.org or 315-685-5135 for additional information.