

# LIBRARY PROPOSITION: 2023-24 BUDGET VOTE

## Overview of Request

The Skaneateles Library Association is requesting an increase in public funding for its operational budget to offset increases in expenses. The requested increase is \$14,560, raising the current \$364,000 annual levy to \$378,560 - an increase of less than \$3 for a home valued at \$400,000 (see table below). These funds will help support the library's services and are not intended for use in capital projects.

## Why an Increase is Needed

Increases in minimum wage and inflation have impacted the library, just like other organizations and businesses:

- Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers increased 7.7% from October 2021 to October 2022
- Inflation was 6.5% from December 2021 to December 2022
- Minimum wage increased \$1.00 or 7.6% from 2022 to 2023

## How We Compare

Surrounding libraries request and receive regular increases in public funding to help offset increased expenses. OCPL libraries receive between 75% and 99% of their budgets from local public funds, with the average at around 92%. The Skaneateles Library receives about 75-80% of its budget from public funding.

## What the Increase Means for Each Household

The following table illustrates what the 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 \$352,072 and \$225,000, respectively.

Town of Skaneateles* Assessed Property Value	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$800,000
Current 2022-23 library levy	\$37.30	\$74.60	\$149.20
<b>Increase per household</b>	<b>\$1.49</b>	<b>\$2.98</b>	<b>\$5.97</b>
Total 2023-24 library levy with increase	\$38.79	\$77.58	\$155.17

\* Values vary slightly for Owasco, Spafford, Sennett, Niles and Marcellus — portions of which are in the SCSD.

## Proposition

The following proposition will be on the Skaneateles School District annual budget vote on May 16, 2023:

*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 \$14,560 to the sum of \$378,560 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.

Questions? Contact library director Nickie Marquis at [nickie@skanlibrary.org](mailto:nickie@skanlibrary.org) or 315-685-5135. Current budget available at <https://www.skanlibrary.org/about/board/annual-reports-budgets/>

# COMMUNITY REPORT: a snapshot of how the community used library resources during FY OCT 2021 - SEPT 2022

## NEW + NOTABLE

Celebrated **Dinovember** with hide-and-seek (paper dinos were loose in our books!), story times and hands-on STEAM activities

DEC

### Tonieboxes

gave toddlers and preschoolers a screen-free listening experience that plays stories, songs and more

FEB

Collaborated with Waterman and 12 local businesses to help kids practice reading aloud during **Poem in Your Pocket Week**

JUN

### Stuffed Animal Adoption

gave 122 of our youngest summer readers the chance to choose and care for a new mini pet

AUG

After a long hiatus, 2 of our popular monthly series returned:

### Movies + Classic Guitar Concerts

NOV

Hosted the **Dickens Book Sale and performances** for locals and visitors alike for the first time since 2019

JAN

Distributed our last **Craft Kit**, which helped kids and adults get creative at home during the pandemic (832 this year, 2,250 total)

APR

Added to our collection of **Museum + Park Passes** with the MOST, Children's Museum of Oswego and the National Women's Hall of Fame

JUL

Subscribed to **Gale Business Suite** to help you research, plan, develop and grow your small business or nonprofit

SEPT

## ON OUR SHELVES

46,362 books, DVDs, etc. checked out: **UP 12%**

441 kits for all ages checked out: **UP 17%**

Most read adult mystery book was *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton + Louise Penny

Most popular middle reader book was a tie between *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down* and *Words That Built a Nation: Voices That Have Shaped America's History*

**66,618 total check outs (incl. digital): UP 8%**

## DOWNLOADABLES + STREAMING

20,256 digital items used

**Breakdown:** 47% ebooks, 10% video, 40% audiobooks, 2% magazines and 1% music

Total minutes watched on Kanopy: **53,735**

Most popular TV series on Hoopla was *Riviera* from Sundance Now

## PEOPLE + PROGRAMS

5,824 cardholders: **UP 6%**

4,652 people attended 315 virtual, hybrid and in-person programs

Most attended program was The Rev Theatre's *The Fisherman's Wife* at Austin Park with 127 people

## TECHNOLOGY

1,538 computer sessions and 4,149 wifi sessions

28,956 website visits: **UP 21%**

48 hotspot and Chromebook borrows

73 tech help appointments, plus plenty of informal help at the desk