

F.A.Q. Beekman Library 2016 Funding Vote

Q. How will this budget affect my taxes?

A. On average **you will pay 25 cents more per month**. Currently the average household pays \$72 a year or \$6.00 a month. The average, if the increase is approved, will be **\$75 a year or \$6.25 a month** for complete library services for your family. The exact amount you will pay depends on the assessed value of your home. For each \$1,000 of assessed value you will pay 29 cents per year

Q. Why do you need this increase?

A. The library needs additional funds to cover increases in operating expenses such as energy, technology upgrades, library materials including eBooks, and to maintain staffing levels.

Q. Didn't you just have a budget vote? Why do you need another one?

A. Our last budget increase was in 2013. The NY State tax cap law applies to libraries, therefore we will need to ask for smaller more frequent increases to keep up with the cost of providing materials and services to the community.

Q. Why doesn't the library do fundraising or seek more grants & donations instead of increasing my taxes?

A. In 2014 the Library raised over \$40,000 through fundraising, donations, fees, room rental and grants. Unfortunately we can't rely on these forms of funding since they fluctuate from year to year, and in many cases they are not available to be used for operating expenses. Grants provide money that is intended to be spent on a specific use. Donations, also, can come with spending instructions. So for the bulk of our expenses, we need to use our annual funding.

Q. I don't even use the library, why should I pay for it?

A. Good question. What we are asking non-users is to look at us not as a need for you, but as a need for your community. A community-supported library plays a large part in a thriving community. The bottom line for you, whether short or long term, is a thriving community has a direct affect on your home's value. For \$3 more a year, the increase in library funding is money well spent. Additionally, most people that use the library not only pay the same taxes you do, but donate additionally through our much needed fundraisers and/or with volunteering their time.

Please Vote

General Election Day –Tuesday, November 3, 2015

YOU MUST FLIP OVER THE BALLOT TO VOTE ON THE LIBRARY BUDGET