

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. Is the New Lenox Public Library District part of the Village of New Lenox?

No. The New Lenox Public Library District is an entirely separate taxing body from the Village.

The New Lenox Public Library District is governed by Board of seven Library Trustees who are elected by district residents. Each Trustee serves for six years and the Board is responsible for setting Library Policy and hiring the Library Director.

Although the Library works together with the Village to assist with year round events, the Village provides no funding to the Library. The graph below details the percentage of an average tax bill that goes to library funds.

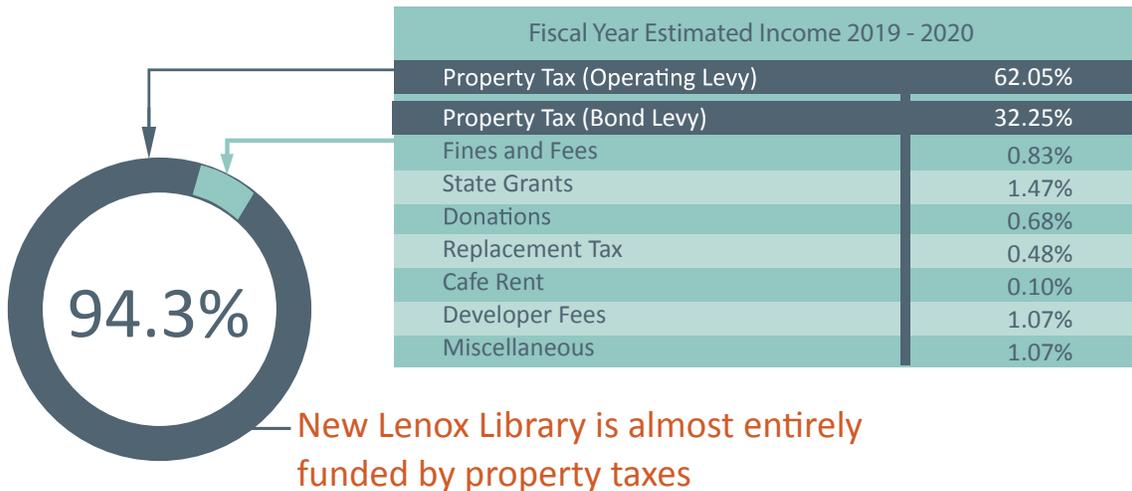
Property Tax Funding	
Property Tax	
School District 122	45.8%
High School District 210	24.0%
Will County	6.7%
New Lenox Fire District	6.5%
Village of New Lenox	4.6%
Joliet Community College District 525	3.3%
New Lenox Community Park District	2.7%
<b>New Lenox Public Library</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
New Lenox Township	2.2%
Forest Preserve	1.7%

Library taxes are only 2.5% of your total tax bill.



## 2. How is the New Lenox Public Library District funded?

94.3% Of library funds come from property taxes. The remaining 5% is received from impact fees, overdue fines, donations and grants (see illustration below).



## 3. Why is the library asking for more money?

The construction bonds that were approved by voters in 1999 will be paid off in December 2019. As a result, the library will no longer be collecting taxes for this fund. In order to be fiscally responsible, the Board of Trustees has decided to ask the community to vote upon additional funds (equal to the tax rate of the expiring construction bond levy) for the operating tax. The operating tax allows us to purchase materials, keep the building running, offer programs and events, pay staff, and attend to maintenance items. Since the requested increase for the operating tax rate equals the decrease in construction bond tax rate, this will be a zero tax rate increase.

After a professional facility assessment was completed by a third party, it was found that the library will require \$5.4 million over the next 10 years to attend to building maintenance needs.

[Links to Facility Assessment and Vision Planning Study.](#)

ZERO TAX RATE CHANGE	2018 TAX RATE	PROPOSED ZERO TAX RATE CHANGE
Tax Rate for Operation	.1518	.2239
Tax Rate for Construction Bonds	.0721	+0 (Zero)
Total	.2239	.2239

*Note: Rates per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation (EAV)*

#### 4. What will the ballot say?

“Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the New Lenox Public Library District, Will County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.0721% above the limiting rate for the purpose of general library purposes for levy year 2018 and be equal to 0.2239% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2020?”

#### 5. What would this tax referendum mean to me?

For every \$100,00 of home value, the amount will be \$24.03 per year. Again, the taxpayer is already paying this tax rate in the form of building construction bonds. The library is simply requesting that this portion of the tax rate that is expiring be moved to the operating tax rate. If the referendum did not pass, the taxes paid would decrease by \$24.03 per \$100,000 of home value.

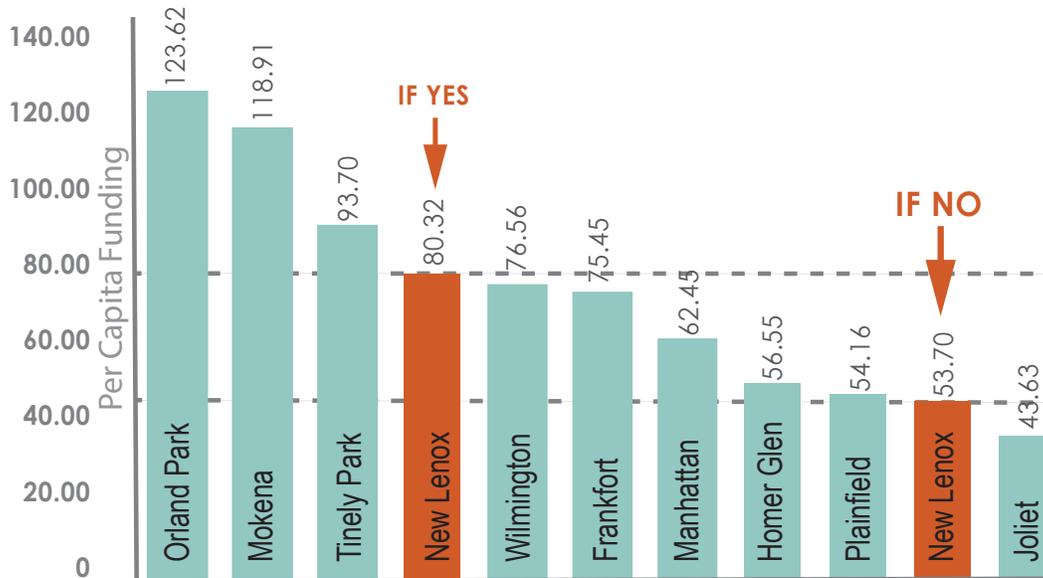
#### 6. Aren't staff in the library all volunteers?

The library is very grateful for the many volunteers that assist us! That being said, all library staff members are paid for their work.

#### 7. How does New Lenox Public Library District's funding compare to libraries in neighboring communities?

Sourcing information from the Illinois Public Library Annual Report from the Illinois State Library, you can see how we compare to our neighboring libraries:

### How We Compare to Our Neighbors



#### 8. How big of an area does New Lenox Public Library District serve?

Per the 2010 census, there are 36,847 residents of the New Lenox Public Library District. In 2017, the New Lenox Public Library District worked closely with the Will County GIS Department to obtain an updated and accurate updated resident count, which was 40,733. In just 7 years, the district's population grew over 10%.

## 9. What will happen if the referendum passes?

**Increased Hours:** The Library will be able to maintain current hours and would extend weekday hours and weekend service including Sundays.

**Sustained Materials Funding and Expanded Services:** This will enable the Library to continue to provide new and up-to-date books, movies, music, while decreasing wait times for downloadable content. More resources will be available to focus on early literacy skills and making the library accessible to everyone, including those who are homebound.

**Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability:** It will allow the Library to plan for capital maintenance for our 20 year old building including HVAC repairs, energy efficient components, parking lot maintenance, walls repairs and painting, carpet replacement, more private and collaborative study/workspaces, window and door replacements, furniture updates, to name a few.

**More Partnership Opportunities:** The library can create and maintain connections with area schools to provide every student with complete and easy access to the public library's resources. In addition, additional connections with businesses and senior care facilities can be established.

## 10. What will happen if the referendum fails?

**Reduced Hours:** Due to needed capital maintenance to keep the building operating, hours may need to be reduced in the future.

**Minimized Maintenance:** Basic repairs will only be completed. \$5.4 Million over the next 10 years is needed for capital improvements, such as repairing elevators, commercial heating and air conditioning system, worn carpeting, chipping paint, and replacing lighting.

**Significant Service Decrease and Limited Materials:** There will be a noticeable decrease in in-house and external classes and programs: outreach, homebound delivery, and off-site storytimes to local organizations and schools will be affected. Selection of materials will be limited and there will be longer wait time for new books, movies, music, computers, and downloadable content.

**Less Technology:** Technology access and services will be reduced therefore limiting resources available to patrons, such as

## 11. Why aren't you asking for bonds instead of an operating tax rate increase?

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An operating tax increase is a set amount whereas bonds require taxpayers to pay interest during time of repayment, similar to a home mortgage. Facility assessments and planning studies conducted by professional third-party companies have demonstrated a need for long-term sustainable funding. By ensuring building maintenance issues are attended to, the library will be able to maintain materials and program budgeting levels.

## 12. Why do you show comparisons on a \$100,000 home?

The \$100,000 fair market value is taken directly out of the referendum questions on the ballot. The District has no choice in how the questions is worded as the wording comes from the County Clerk and is regulated by Illinois State Statute.

## 13. Who do I call if I want more information?

Please call Library Director Michelle Krooswyk at 815-485-2605 ext. 101.