

New Lenox Library Referendum

Our Next Chapter...



VOTE! March 17

EARLY VOTING BEGINS MARCH 2, 2020

Essential To The Community!

937 Free Classes, Programs, & Events

32,327 People Attended Programs

223,072 Items Available to Check Out

44,746 Questions Answered by Staff

236,063 Items Checked Out

142,505 People Visited the Library

In 2019



GET INFORMED

For more information visit:
www.newlenoxlibrary.org/vote
815.485.2605 Ext. 101

Our Next Chapter....

After surveying residents, we have heard that you want more from your library, including increased hours, additional classes, events, and materials. In fact, 99% of those surveyed said the library is essential to the community! Due to our limited budget, we are currently unable to provide all the resources that you requested.

Why?

The library has not had a voter approved operational tax rate increase since 1946. The current facility was constructed in 2001, but it has been operating on the tax rate for the previous building, which was 19% of its size. The library is almost 20 years old and the facility systems are aging past their life expectancy. To address these issues, a professional assessment of the building concluded that the library needs approximately 5.4 million dollars over the next 10 years. Although the library has saved approximately \$400,000 in capital reserves, this amount will not cover all the cost.



HOW WOULD THE LIBRARY REFERENDUM AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

ESTIMATED IMPACT OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

AVERAGE HOME VALUE		\$272K
LIBRARY TAX IN 2019		\$185
ADD'L COST PER YEAR		\$ 0



IF YES – THE REFERENDUM PASSES

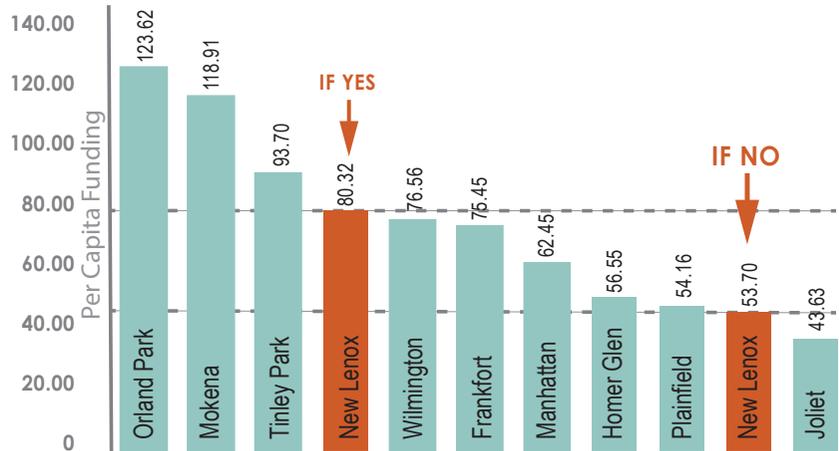
The Library will be able to:

- ✓ **Be open Sundays and extend weekday hours** to meet the needs of working families and students
- ✓ **Expand and improve services** focusing on early literacy and seniors while also increasing homebound delivery to serve more of those who cannot physically visit the library
- ✓ **Proactively maintain our 18-year-old building** because the aging mechanical systems are failing and other physical aspects are reaching their lifespan

A Zero Tax Rate Increase

The voter-approved construction bonds that were issued to build our current library are fully paid off as of December 2019. Therefore the library will no longer be collecting taxes for this fund. This presents an opportunity for the library to attend to building maintenance issues, increase hours, and maintain services while remaining at the same tax rate. The library's proposal asks to redirect the tax rate from construction bonds to the tax rate for operations. The net effect of this referendum will be a zero tax rate change.

How We Compare to Our Neighbors



IF NO – THE REFERENDUM FAILS

The Library will have to:

- ✓ **Reduce hours** by 15% over the next 3-5 years
- ✓ **Decrease services** including limiting materials budget and homebound delivery service
- ✓ **Minimize maintenance** to include only emergency or as-needed building repairs

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