

Budget FAQs

1. What will the community be getting for passing the budget?
 - a. An extra hour of operation on Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. over the summer months
 - b. Restoration of the books and materials budget to pre-pandemic levels
 - c. Increase to funding for e-books and other electronic resources
 - d. The library will become a passport acceptance center

2. What will this cost us?
 - a. An average increase of \$11 per year per household OR
 - b. About \$3 more per person per year

3. Why?
 - a. There was no budget increase in 2020.
 - b. Inflation has been at an all-time high, costing the library over \$1 million in purchasing power. The library has absorbed this with strategic cuts to staffing, and finding savings in other areas.
 - c. The population served by the library has increased.

4. What if it doesn't pass?
 - a. If the budget fails, there will be cuts to books, materials and services. If the contingency budget in June fails, we will be forced to cut hours in order to make up the shortfall.

5. Why don't you just cut more staff?
 - a. We have done some reorganizing over the past 5 years to combine positions, redefine job duties, incentivize retirements, replace full time positions with part time, and replace higher titles with lower (and lower paid) titles. However, due to civil service laws, there are restrictions on what we can do as we cannot make employees work "out of title." Being civil service also means we are part of the New York State Retirement System and the New York State Health Insurance plan. These costs are non-negotiable. We also have a union, although our unionized employees rarely get more than a 2% raise. We are also in competition with the other libraries in Rockland and Westchester for qualified staff. Our efforts in this area will continue, but there are limits to what we can do.