

Amenia Free Library

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Upcoming Proposition

On Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021, the Amenia Free Library Association will ask taxpayers for additional annual funding to support the operations of the Library.

Here are some answers to questions we frequently receive:

Why is the Library asking for more funding?

The library strives to meet the needs of our community for the services, hours, and resources we provide. This funding will allow the Library to continue to meet the growing demand for programming for all ages and a place for study and work using our larger space. Additionally, the funding will assist in the rising use of our digital resources including eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, television shows, and movies.

How is the Amenia Free Library funded?

The Amenia Free Library receives \$125,000 through local tax funds annually from the Town of Amenia for operating expenses. The Library also receives approximately \$1,200 annually from New York State. Lastly, grants and donations help the Library with the operational expenses, but the amounts received vary each year and are not guaranteed.

Residents of the Town of Amenia will be asked to vote on a ballot proposition that will provide \$175,000 in funding, an increase of \$50,000. For a property assessed at \$250,000, the increase will be about \$1 a month.

What do the local library tax funds pay for?

The funding that the Library receives from the Town of Amenia goes directly towards the operating expenses: library materials (print and digital), utilities, salaries, insurance, supplies, and more. The local library tax funds are only for operating expenses of the Library.

Do the local tax funds pay for the expansion of the Library?

No. The local tax funds received each year are only for operating expenses of the Library. All funds for the Expansion and Renovation Project have been received over many years through generous donors and a Library Construction Grant from New York State.

I don't use the Library. Why should I pay more?

Libraries are for everyone! The Library offers much more than what is just on the shelves. A library card provides access to the collections of 65 other libraries (3+ million items!), including a variety of digital items: magazines, books, audiobooks, lifelong learning classes, language lessons, music and more! You can access the collection from anywhere with just your Library Card.

The Library is a place for the community to learn, use the collections, gather with others, and assist with the services we provide. We're here for the community and hope to see you soon!

Once the construction is complete, we will be offering a variety of programming for people of all ages and we will be a more welcoming space for our community to use.

What will happen if the proposition does not pass?

If the proposition does not pass, the Library will continue to operate with the current amount of local tax funds received. This may lead to fewer service hours, materials, and less programming for our community.

Please remember to flip the ballot over and look for Proposition #7!