



WALWORTH-SEELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHAPTER 414 FUNDING REFERENDUM INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS A CHAPTER 414 REFERENDUM?

It enables libraries to allow voters to decide how much to tax themselves for library services, rather than having a town board determine an annual library allocation from the overall town budget. **If the vote passes**, the Town of Walworth will collect the taxes on behalf of the library. **If the vote fails**, the library will revert to its previous funding method (allocation) or amount (if the 414 has been previously established).

A Chapter 414 Referendum is NOT an additional tax, nor does it create a new taxing district. It is simply a different way to determine how much funding the library receives each year, by putting the decision in the hands of the voters.

IS THIS A NEW TAX?

WILL THE LIBRARY TAX GO UP EVERY YEAR?

No. Any increase in funding will be proposed by the Library Board of Trustees, but must be approved by a majority vote in a town-wide general election. In this way, voters will have a greater voice in how their tax dollars are spent.

HOW MUCH OF THE LIBRARY'S ANNUAL BUDGET COMES FROM TAXES?

Anywhere from 92% - 98% of the Library's budget comes from local government sources in a given year. When that budget is cut, it severely impacts the programs and services that the library can offer.

95%

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Taxpayers will have a direct voice to support library funding
- Once established, the library can count on more sustainable funding from year to year, which will allow us to better plan future services
- Library funding would now come from one municipal source, so WSPL would be removed from the Wayne Central and Gananda Central School District ballots

"We would like those concerned residents to be aware that the final 2024 budget is scheduled to be voted on November 16. Therefore, if the Chapter 414 referendum passes, the board has every intention to remove the library line from the budget, effectively removing the taxes raised by the town on behalf of the library. We will not 'double tax' Walworth residents." -Walworth Town Board, September 14, 2023

WHAT IS THE TOWN'S RESPONSE TO THIS?

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

www.walworthlibrary.org/chapter414referendum has more information, including the full statement released by the Town Board.



WILL A 414 REFERENDUM REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN LIBRARY FUNDING?

"History has shown that when citizens have the right to directly vote on how much to tax themselves for public library service, funding for public libraries **stabilizes and becomes sustainable**, allowing a library to **more adequately respond to community needs.**" -Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System