



CLINTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

November 2017 General Election

Library Proposition (414 Vote)

UPDATED Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

as of September 23, 2017

1. What is a 414 vote?

It is a proposition on the election ballot in November that allows taxpayers to earmark a specific amount of their town tax dollars for the Library.

2. Why is our Clinton Community Library recommending that we take this action?

The current funding for the Library is derived from a patchwork quilt of sources. This structure is unreliable and puts the Library at risk. We are recommending this action so that the Library can consistently meet the needs of the community.

3. What is the relationship between the Town and the Library?

The Library currently asks the Town Board for funding each year. The Town Board then decides how much money to give to the Library. The Town also provides the Library with its physical space and utilities. Our current level of services and programs, reflecting the demands of the community, require more funding than the Town Board has provided. We are recommending that town voters earmark a specific amount of their tax dollars for the Library, so that basic operating costs are covered and we can reliably maintain the current level of service to the community.

4. How is our Library currently funded?

Every year the Town Board decides how much money to give to the Library. Currently, the Town appropriates \$54,884 to the Library, which for taxpayers equates to about \$8.00 per \$100,000 of assessed property value per year of your taxes. For instance, if your property is assessed at \$250,000, you are currently supporting the Library with \$20.00 of your Town property taxes every year. The amount provided in the Town budget has been held flat over the last six years and covers only half of the Library's operating costs. Our Library Director and Trustees must scramble every year to find additional funding through grant applications, numerous fundraisers, and personal appeals for support.

5. How much money is the Library requesting?

The Clinton Community Library Board of Trustees is proposing an annual taxpayer contribution of \$115,000 to be funded from Town property taxes. Based on our calculations, this would entail an annual household contribution of approximately \$16.00 for every \$100,000 in assessed property value. So, for

example, if your assessment is \$250,000, approximately \$40.00 of the taxes you pay to the Town of Clinton will go directly to the Library.

6. Will this create a new tax district?

No. This will not create a new tax district. The Library will retain its legal status as an association library. This vote simply sets the amount of Town taxes coming to the Library.

7. Our taxes go up every year – will the library tax automatically go up every year too?

No. Any increase in funding must be approved by a majority vote in a Town-wide election.

8. How will the money be spent?

Most of our budget goes towards basic operating costs: personnel costs to keep the library open 36 hours a week and other expenditures necessary to meet our patrons' growing demands for current circulation materials (such as new books and DVDs). A smaller portion will go towards other community services and outreach – regularly publishing a newsletter and hosting more programs and special events.

9. How do other towns fund their libraries?

The majority of community libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System, including 16 of the 19 towns in Dutchess County, are supported by earmarked taxes approved by voters under Chapter 414 – exactly what we are proposing for the Town of Clinton. The Town of Clinton currently spends the least amount per capita on its library of all towns in Dutchess County!

10. What will happen if this 414 vote fails?

As in the past, the Library Board will return to the Town Board seeking operational funding. We will have to base the extent of our services on the Town's appropriation. The Library will work hard to meet the needs of the community, but we will have to make adjustments. The Library will be forced to reduce hours, programming and purchases, and could even close permanently. If the Library does close, your access to neighboring library services will be restricted unless the Town of Clinton agrees to contract for services with an out-of-Town library, which will cost more than the amount we are requesting.

11. When and where is the vote? Who can vote?

All residents of the Town of Clinton that are registered to vote in the Town of Clinton can cast their ballot on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, General Election Day.

Vote at your regular voting location: the Clinton Town Hall, the East Clinton Fire House or the West Clinton Fire House. The polls will be open from 6:00am to 9:00pm.

The Library proposition will be located on the back of the ballot, and will be a simple "Yes" or "No" question.