

Dear Neighbors,

We're excited to kick off our first full year with all three of our library locations fully up and running! We're committed to keeping our library services top-notch while being mindful of how we manage public funds. To continue providing the great resources, programs, and spaces you rely on, we're proposing a small budget adjustment this year. For the average home assessed at \$1,995, this would mean an estimated increase of \$2.90 per month (estimated \$35 per year). We understand that any increase matters, and we want to be transparent about why this change is needed.

The 4.9% budget increase is largely due to costs that are out of our hands, like rising employee benefits such as health insurance and retirement contributions. We've also adjusted wages for some of our entry level librarians and security guards to better align with regional salary levels. While this is a step in the right direction, there's still more work to be done to ensure we can attract and keep the amazing staff that make our library such a valuable community service. More than 60% of all our workers are local residents, and most of our senior managers are William Floyd graduates. Secondly, the costs of eBooks and online resources have increased significantly and there is a high demand for these services.

With the reopening of the Main Library in November 2024, this is the first time we've had all three of our updated facilities fully operational. We're proud to offer expanded programs, resources, and welcoming spaces designed to inspire learning, creativity, and connection in our community. We know that exceeding the state's 2% tax cap is a big ask, and it's not something we take lightly. This budget is carefully designed to ensure our library system remains sustainable and continues to provide the services you rely on.

We also want to let you know about this year's trustee election, which includes two open seats:

- A full-term seat (2025-2030), currently held by Joseph Maiorana.
- A one-year remainder term (through June 2026), currently held by Nancy Kimmerling.

We truly appreciate your support and invite all district residents to participate in the upcoming budget vote on April 22, 2025. If you have any concerns about the budget or anything else, please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees