

Albany Public Library

2023-24 LIBRARY BUDGET FACTS

- City residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 16, to cast ballots on the library's 2023-24 operating tax levy of \$7,710,529.
 - The spending plan was unanimously approved by the elected Board of Trustees in March.
 - The library's fiscal year runs July 2023 through June 2024.
- The 2023-24 operating tax levy is an increase of 4.58% over the current year.
 - This is under the NYS tax cap limit for the library.
- In the last decade, library taxes have increased an average of about 1% per year.
 - In that same time period, there were five years with no tax or budget increase.
- The library continues to deal with rising costs for utilities and almost every other part of our operation.
 - The proposed increase puts us on the path to achieving fiscal stability and sustainability.
- An Albany resident with a \$150,000 home will pay about an extra \$11.16 next year for the library.
- Polls are open Tuesday, May 16, from 7 am until 9 pm.



Note: There is no trustee election this year, as all board seats are midterm.

LIBRARY SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE TAX LEVY

- Free access to a large and diverse collection of books and DVDs, audiobooks and music CDs, eBooks and eMagazines, as well as databases and museum passes.
- Free public computers, laptops, and WiFi access at all library branches and outdoor spaces, plus three city parks and several Albany Housing Authority locations. Also, a mobile app for devices and WiFi hotspots for in-home use.
- Free educational and entertainment programs for all ages and interests including: story times, computer classes, financial workshops, music performances, book reviews, movies, tax assistance, arts and crafts activities, science and technology programs, and health and wellness classes.
- Free access to professional librarians and staff who assist with information and research needs, downloading library items to devices, and reader's advisory service to support and encourage literacy and a love of reading.
- Free use of community meeting rooms and study spaces for local organizations and individuals.
- Free 24/7 online access to the collections and databases of all 29 libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System, which covers Albany and Rensselaer counties.

LIBRARY VOTE FAQ

What is the Albany Public Library vote on?

The library budget is a proposition on the ballot. Here is the actual ballot language:

"Shall the sum of \$7,710,529 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the City School District of Albany for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Albany Public Library?"

☐ Yes ☐ No

When is the vote?

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 7 am to 9 pm. The city school district runs the voting process, and the library's tax levy appears on the same ballot as the school budget.

Why is my polling place in a different location than the general election polling place?

Polling places for the school and library budget votes are different than the polling locations used for citywide elections. The polling places are determined by the school district and can be found at albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information.

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone registered to vote in the city of Albany general election is eligible to vote in the library election.

Will people be allowed to vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, people can vote by absentee ballot. Information is available through the school district at albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information.

How many votes are needed for the passage of the library tax levy proposal?

A majority of those cast in the election.

How much is the proposed library tax levy increase?

The library is proposing an increase in its operating tax levy of 4.58%. This amount is under the NYS tax cap. If approved, this would result in an increase in the library tax of about \$11.16 for a home with an assessed value of \$150,000. The estimated homestead tax rate for 2023-24 will be \$1.69 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Why is an increase proposed?

Heading into the new fiscal year, the library continues to face rising costs for just about every part of our operation. The proposed spending plan puts us on the path to achieving fiscal stability and sustainability.

What other sources of revenue does the library have?

The 2023-24 budget includes supplemental sources of revenue from PILOT payments (payments in lieu of taxes), federal and state grants, fees and rental income, interest income, plus contributions from foundations and individuals. The majority of support for the library comes from the tax levy.

Does STAR apply to the library tax?

No, STAR does not apply to the library tax.

Why can't you just charge a fee to anyone who uses the library?

It is against the NYS Education Law, which requires that public library service must be "forever free."

What will happen if the voters do not approve the tax levy increase?

If the tax levy increase fails, the library would receive the same funding level as this year.

APL FISCAL YEAR 2024 LINE ITEM BUDGET

	FY23 Budget Approved	FY24 Budget Proposed
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Tax Levy - Library Operations	\$7,372,420	\$7,710,529
Tax Levy - Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,653,644	\$1,655,394
<u>TOTAL TAX LEVY</u>	<u>\$9,026,064</u>	<u>\$9,365,923</u>
OTHER REVENUE		
PILOT Payment	\$480,000	\$477,000
NYS Grants	\$238,600	\$288,501
Federal Grants	\$35,000	\$32,000
Other Grants/Construction Grant	\$0	\$0
Fees and Sales	\$15,000	\$20,000
Interest Income	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rent Income	\$58,575	\$58,575
<u>SUBTOTAL OTHER REVENUE</u>	<u>\$852,175</u>	<u>\$901,076</u>
Total Fund Balance Used	\$505,215	\$329,492
<u>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</u>	<u>\$10,383,454</u>	<u>\$10,596,491</u>
EXPENDITURES		
PAYROLL AND RELATED COSTS		
FT Salaries	\$3,775,000	\$3,890,000
PT Salaries	\$775,000	\$735,000
NYS Retirement System	\$396,434	\$492,047
Payroll Taxes & Processing Fees	\$373,075	\$378,812
Employee Benefits	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$6,419,509</u>	<u>\$6,595,859</u>
OCCUPANCY COSTS		
<i>North Albany Services</i>	\$19,200	\$0
Utilities & Telephone	\$215,000	\$250,000
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$200,000	\$215,000
Maintenance Service Contracts	\$200,000	\$185,000
Custodial Supplies	\$70,000	\$50,000
Vehicle Maintenance	\$8,000	\$18,000
Construction Grant Expense	\$0	\$0
Furniture/Building Improvements	\$50,000	\$40,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$762,200</u>	<u>\$758,000</u>
MATERIALS AND SERVICES		
Books & Audio/Visual Materials	\$405,000	\$398,000
Periodicals	\$52,000	\$52,000
Central Library Services Aid	\$80,298	\$158,464
<i>Central Book Aid</i>	\$66,862	\$0
Digital Content	\$70,000	\$116,774
Programming, Community Relations, and Community Engagement	\$79,000	\$75,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$753,160</u>	<u>\$800,238</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISC.		
Office & Library Supplies	\$55,000	\$55,000
Bank Fees	\$6,000	\$8,000
Memberships	\$4,000	\$3,000
Postage	\$4,000	\$3,000
Publicity & Printing	\$40,000	\$25,000
Training/Travel	\$17,000	\$17,000
<i>Community Relations</i>	\$5,000	\$0
Professional Services	\$160,000	\$136,000
Tax Cert Payments	\$100,000	\$100,000
UHLAN Fees	\$58,941	\$60,000
Liability Insurance	\$75,000	\$80,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$524,941</u>	<u>\$487,000</u>
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Information Technology Services	\$160,000	\$190,000
Information Technology Software	\$45,000	\$35,000
Information Technology Hardware	\$65,000	\$75,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$270,000</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES - LIBRARY OPERATIONS</u>	<u>\$8,729,810</u>	<u>\$8,941,097</u>
DEBT SERVICE		
Total Debt Service Payment on Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,653,644	\$1,655,394
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>\$10,383,454</u>	<u>\$10,596,491</u>

TAX IMPACT OF PROPOSED 2023-24 LIBRARY BUDGET WITH 4.58% INCREASE

Home Property Assessed Value	2023-24 Projected Tax Rate (Homestead) \$1.698164 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Total \$ Increase Over 2022-23 Budget
\$100,000	\$169.82	\$7.44
\$125,000	\$212.27	\$9.30
\$150,000	\$254.72	\$11.16
\$175,000	\$297.18	\$13.01
\$200,000	\$339.63	\$14.87
\$225,000	\$382.09	\$16.73
\$250,000	\$424.54	\$18.59
\$275,000	\$466.99	\$20.45
\$300,000	\$509.45	\$22.31
\$325,000	\$551.90	\$24.17
\$350,000	\$594.36	\$26.03
\$375,000	\$636.81	\$27.89
\$400,000	\$679.27	\$29.75
\$425,000	\$721.71	\$31.60
\$450,000	\$764.17	\$33.47
\$475,000	\$806.62	\$35.32
\$500,000	\$849.08	\$37.18



Get more library budget information:
albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget/

Find your polling place:
albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information