

July 27th Expansion Vote

Commonly Asked Questions

LIBRARY EXPANSION VOTE:

Issue: Approval of a \$475,000 bond to renovate/expand the West Hurley Public Library

Date: July 27, 2005

Location: West Hurley Firehouse

Time: Between 2:00pm and 8:00pm

1. **Didn't I already vote for this?**

Yes, in August of 2003, 73% of the West Hurley Library District voters approved the purchase of a bond for the Library expansion. However, a revote is being forced upon us. Be sure to get out and vote on Wednesday, July 27th. Your vote will definitively be heard this time! **Please bring your spouse or partner and your friends – every vote counts.**

2. **Why do we need a bigger library anyway?**

Our building is bursting at the seams. There is inadequate reading and shelving space and problems fitting children in for programs. Since 1998 there has been a 61% increase in the number of visits to the Library and a 35% increase in children's program attendance. The current facility was established thirty years ago, and it cannot possibly meet our community's growing needs.

3. **How much will this cost me?**

Keep in mind that this project is a community investment. The approximate tax increase is: \$12 per year for a \$100,000 home, \$18 per year for a \$150,000 home, and \$24 per year for a \$200,000 home.

4. I don't even use the library, why should I pay for it to expand?

Sorry to hear that! However, even if you don't use the Library, the presence of the library enhances the value of your property. The newly renovated library will increase your property value even more! So, even if you aren't taking advantage of the library, you are still reaping the benefits.

5. What about the neighbors? It's not fair to them to expand in the middle of a neighborhood!

Our library has been in this location for over 30 years, enhancing this community, educating our children and serving the public good. This expansion follows all town zoning and building regulations. The new design is attractive, and it will fit in with its surroundings. The library needs to be located where children can walk to it safely.

6. Why doesn't the Library charge for its services to cover additional costs?

Free public libraries are a benefit of American democracy. A library does not charge directly, but relies on local taxes for support. The library's building, staff and resources all cost money, but library services are too important to restrict to just those that can afford them.

7. Will there be library services during the expansion?

Every effort will be made to maintain library services during our expansion. If there are any unforeseen events that curtail services we will let you know.

8. Why do we need a library in addition to a public school?

The public library offers many services that cannot be provided through the public school. While the school offers services only to students of a particular age, library resources are available to the entire community. Because of school safety, it wouldn't be practical to have a school building accessible to the public the way a community library is.

Some of the other distinct educational services offered through the library include:

- Open hours all year, after hours, and Saturdays.
- Support for home schooling families.
- The summer reading program, which encourages reading during the school's summer break.
- Computers for students who don't have them at home.
- Children have access to a vast supply of books.

9. Why do we need two libraries in the Town of Hurley?

A study conducted by the Town of Hurley indicated that Hurley and West Hurley residents would not travel to a centralized location for services. In addition, the library provides a cultural and educational center in an area without many other choices.

10. Why do we need more computers in the library?

The current three computers simply do not meet the public's demand. In 2004, the computers were booked 2435 times. Users frequently had to wait or left because the computers were not immediately available. An informal survey indicates that a number of users do not have computers at home, and those that do lack the high-speed Internet connections or expensive business software offered at the Library.

11. Hasn't the Internet replaced the need for libraries?

Actually, the Internet has increased the usage of library services! Libraries now use online technology to give patrons access to a wealth of resources from home, and provide in-library access to the Internet for those who do not have it. In addition, librarians assist the public in navigating an often overwhelming mass of information available online.

12. How do I get an absentee ballot?

Applications are available at the Town Hall, the West Hurley Public Library, and Hurley Ridge Liquors or by calling the Town Clerk at 3317474. Applications are due in the mail by July 20, 2005 at the Town Hall.

13. Why do you need more room for books? Can't you get them from other libraries now?

In order to obtain materials from neighboring libraries, the West Hurley Public Library must share also. We cannot simply borrow most of our materials without being penalized. The expansion proposal adds a total of 567 lineal feet of stacks (increase of 25%). This would allow the library to build and maintain a collection to better support the community. The expanded shelf area will also allow the library to build specialized collections, such as audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, LeapPads, and other new items. Interest in these particular items continues to grow.

14. What will my children gain?

Children will have a dedicated area for programs/events (i.e. storyhours, crafts, reading groups, and student tutoring). Children will also be able to browse and select their own materials from lower shelving. Children learn to read by reading.