



Frequently Asked Questions

www.bloomfieldpubliclibrary.org/vote

How is the library currently funded?

The library is funded primarily by Town of East Bloomfield taxes. A small amount (currently \$2,000) comes from the school district tax; this appropriation has been at this level since 1992. The town of West Bloomfield and the Village of Bloomfield each contribute a small amount, although these funds are not mandated.

Why is the library asking for an increase at this time?

We are experiencing increased administrative costs due to business practice changes made between the Town of East Bloomfield and the library. Our expenses are also increasing due to factors such as state minimum wage increases and related employment expenses.

Why has the library waited until now to ask to increase the amount on the school tax bill?

Our expenses are increasing due to factors such as state minimum wage increases and related employment expenses.

How will this affect my school tax?

Very minimally. The average homeowner will see an increase of approximately **\$2.50** per year on their school taxes this coming year.

Who uses the library?

Residents of the Bloomfield Central School District. There are over 2,250 registered borrowers.

How will this vote impact other libraries in the area?

The money raised by this tax increase will support only the Bloomfield Public Library.

Will additional library tax requests be made in the future?

It is likely that additional increases will be requested. Personnel and other costs continue to climb. State mandated personnel costs will gradually increase about 20 percent over the next three years. Funding sources may change in the future.

What will happen if the vote is not passed?

If the referendum is not approved, the Board of Trustees of the Bloomfield Public Library will need to make difficult decisions about services, materials and programs such as:

- Cutting back hours of operation over the next several years
- Decreasing the materials budget, resulting in fewer new materials being purchased
- Reducing programming for children, teens and adults

What changes will be made if the vote is passed?

If the proposed funding is approved, benefits to the community include:

- Ensuring that the library remains available at the most convenient times.
- Providing the most up to date technology for patron use.
- Allowing the board of trustees to approve building maintenance and improvement for safety, accessibility, and efficiencies.
- Providing resources for new programming for patrons of all ages.

With the prevalence of the Internet and eBooks, isn't the library being used less?

Families continue to come to the library to introduce their children to books and participate in activities. Older children and adults use the library for study, book borrowing, book clubs and other activities, as well as computer use; some community residents depend on the library for reliable internet access. Community organizations use the space for meetings. Library patrons who borrow digital media use their library cards to check out material. Funding for this e-content comes from the library budget.

Why does the library allow people outside of the school district to obtain library cards and use its services? Why should my tax dollars be used to support this outside use?

As a member of the Pioneer Library System (PLS), Bloomfield Public Library shares services and collections with 41 other libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston counties. By participating in this shared cooperative system, every library, including Bloomfield, has access to more materials, vital services including the OWWL online catalog and the OWWL2G digital collection, cheaper genealogy and language databases, and free holds on materials from libraries within the Pioneer Library System.