The Smithtown Special Library District Bond Referendum Vote July 1, 2025 9:30am-9:00pm



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the anticipated tax impact on taxpayers?

If the Library issues \$16.5 million in bonds, the average residential real property taxpayer (based on the average residence assessed value of \$6,000) would see a maximum annual bond-related tax impact of \$36 for 15 years.

Could the tax impact be less?

Potentially, the tax impact could be less as the Library has been approved to receive federal public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

If the Library is receiving assistance from FEMA, why is the Library financing the restoration/reconstruction?

FEMA's Public Assistance program operates as a reimbursement program, reimbursing up to 75% of eligible disaster-related expenses. Applicants must first incur and document their costs before receiving federal funds. The scheduling of these reimbursements can vary significantly.

If the assessed value of my home is more/less than the average household, how can I calculate my maximum tax impact?

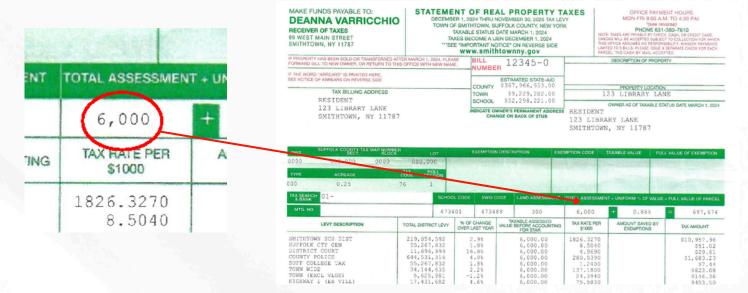
BOND Amount	Term	Interest Rate (est.)	Estimated Tax Rate	
(Millions)	(Years)		Increase per \$1,000 AV	
\$16.5	15	3.65%	\$5.722	

Estimated Annual Tax Impact on a Home Assessed at:							
Assessed Value (AV)	\$4,000	\$6,000*	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$14,000	
Tax Impact	\$22.89	\$34.33	\$45.77	\$57.22	\$68.66	\$80.10	

^{*}The average residence assessed at \$6,000 is currently paying approximately \$391 per year in Library Taxes.

What is assessed value, and how can I find out the assessed value of my home?

Assessed value is the amount assigned by the Town Assessor's Office to calculate property taxes. The assessed value of your home can be found on your tax bill.



What areas of the Library will be restored/reconstructed?

The proposed reconstruction will restore the following spaces:

- Community Rooms
- Friends Book Sale Room
- Collection Area
- LearnLab (the Library's makerspace)
- Public restrooms
- Staff offices, restrooms, and the break room

The proposed reconstruction will add or enhance the following spaces:

- · A podcast studio for public use
- Dedicated space for Literacy Suffolk, which provides literacy services for adults
- Study areas for individuals and small groups
- The Government Services Department will feature the Library's Patent & Trademark Resource Center, Passport Acceptance Facility, and a Federal Depository Library Program with access to government documents
- The Richard H. Handley Collection of Long Island Americana ("The Long Island Room") will be relocated to a first-floor, museum-quality space with archival standards in place

What measures are being taken to ensure this type of catastrophe will not recur?

The Lower Level reconstruction includes measures to lessen potential damage from future flood events. These mitigation efforts include installing an emergency generator, improving and supplementing site drainage, and relocating the irreplaceable historical LI Room collection and offices to the main level.

Is there a breakdown of the cost of the project?

The total project cost includes everything required to complete the renovation safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with public construction laws. It includes construction, materials, and labor paid at state-mandated prevailing wage rates. It also covers professional services such as legal, architectural, engineering, permitting, and project management, as well as funds for unforeseen contingencies and cost escalations due to inflation, tariffs, or supply chain dislocations. These are standard requirements for public construction projects and ensure the project is completed to high standards with full transparency and accountability.

Emergency Building Restoration (Includes restoration of LI Room historical collection and measures to expedite the re-opening of the main level)	\$1,100,000		
General Construction Work	\$8,450,000		
HVAC Work	\$1,425,000		
Plumbing	\$1,200,000		
Electrical	\$2,200,000		
Soft Costs (includes advertising, architect, attorneys, bond counsel, construction manager, permits & fees, third party inspections, etc.)	\$2,125,000		
BOND	\$16,500,000		

Why does a public library renovation cost more than a home renovation?

Public construction in New York is subject to strict laws that private projects are not, which increase the costs and complexity of the project.

What is the Wicks Law, and how does it affect costs?

The Wicks Law requires separate bids and contracts for plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and general construction on public projects over a prescribed dollar amount. This leads to complex coordination, and higher costs.

What is prevailing wage?

New York law requires public project owners to pay workers a "prevailing wage," which is established by New York State's Department of Labor. This compensation is significantly higher than what a homeowner might pay a private contractor.

Are there other requirements that increase costs?

Yes. Public projects must also follow extensive bidding rules, safety and accessibility regulations, environmental disaster, and must utilize institutional-grade materials – all of which add to the total cost.

For More Information: www.smithlib.org/library-bond-vote