



A Message from Your Board of Trustees

The public library has reinvented itself as a community gathering place, and that is certainly true in Islip. Here young children discover the world of books and educational play, caregivers find socialization opportunities for themselves and their little ones, older children seek help with schoolwork, students from elementary school through graduate school find a place to study, adults enhance leisure time finding a favorite author, magazine, or newspaper, residents of all ages have reference and technology inquiries addressed with expert staff, civic groups gather to forge community connections, and community residents of all ages find programs to expand personal horizons.

Delivering on these library services isn't easy. In recent years, the pace of change has quickened in the outside world, and that's created challenges. We have witnessed an exponential increase in the digitization of content, a dramatic change in the ways people seek information, and a growing population of older people who are aging in place. Challenges within our walls include the integration of rapidly changing technologies, staff recruitment, budgetary constraints, and aging infrastructure.

In the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year, the Board is taking a particular focus on infrastructure. There has been a long history of setting aside funds from operating budgets to meet future needs. Through fiscal planning, the Board has been able to create an outdoor terrace, replace the parking lot, install new exterior lighting and sidewalks, remodel the crumbling entryway, recarpet much of the Library, address landscaping needs, and more. None of these projects required floating an expensive bond or piercing the New York State tax cap. Plans are currently well underway for a replacement of the Library's aged HVAC system and roof, portions of which are nearly 50 and 70 years old, respectively, and those renovations will similarly come to fruition entirely through funds that were prudently set aside.

Looking to 2025-26, the Board has developed a plan to expand and relocate the undersized Teen Department, create much-needed quiet study space, renovate twenty-five year-old restrooms, and enhance adult and senior sitting areas. These initiatives would all be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. The Children's Room will be our next and largest project. This space has not been remodeled in 25 years. The children who first enjoyed it are now parents themselves, and the space should reflect the changing needs and expectations of a new generation. It will take us a number of years to realize this reimagined space. Passage of the 2025-26 budget will enable the Library to earmark funds and commence planning for that overdue transformation.

For the first time in decades, the Board is respectfully asking residents to support a budget that ensures that the physical building will meet the times. With an estimated cost of \$9.58 per month or \$114.90 for the year for the average homeowner, the budget is presented with an assurance that funds raised in the capital line will be tapped only for infrastructure improvements to preserve the Library as an inviting community destination. In the Library's 102nd year of operation, the Board will be committed to giving you a public library that you will be proud to call your own. Please feel free to contact the Director at 631-581-5933 if you have any questions.



Proposed 2025-2026 Library Budget

	<i>Budgeted</i>		<i>Budgeted</i>
	<i>2024-25</i>		<i>2025-26</i>
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 2,768,287	\$	2,833,832
<i>Mandated</i> NYS Retirement System Costs	\$ 285,000	\$	305,000
Library Materials	\$ 461,500	\$	466,600
Capital Outlay / Transfer	\$ 112,000	\$	800,000
Operation & Maintenance of Building	\$ 339,400	\$	355,600
Library Administration	\$ 344,900	\$	353,100
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Total Budget	\$ 4,311,087	\$	5,114,132
Anticipated Income	\$ - 15,000	\$	- 15,000
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<i>Proposed Budget Request</i>	\$ 4,296,087	\$	5,099,132

Based on current assessments, for a home with an assessment of \$40,000, Library taxes will increase by \$114.90 for the year.

BUDGET HEARING:

Monday, March 31st at 6:30 pm in the Library

BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION:

Tuesday, April 8th from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in the Library

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE:

Christine Scibelli