

School Ballot Referendum FAQ

Library Background

The Mission of the Phoenix Public Library is to provide an environment where lifelong habits of learning, self-improvement and expression are encouraged and where patrons can meet their educational, informational and recreational needs. Service to our users is our reason for being. Those who need us most are our highest priority.

Q: What is the library asking for with this referendum vote?

The library is appealing to our community for a funding increase in the amount of \$75,917 for a total amount of \$151,834.

Q: How will the funding be used?

Cost of living increase:

- The Phoenix Public Library relies on our talented staff to meet the needs of our community, from children's programming to computer help. The proposed increase will be used to help provide the competitive wages and benefits we need to recruit and retain personnel with 21st century skills.

Date	Minimum Wage	Increased to
July 24, 2009	\$7.15	\$7.25
December 31, 2013	\$7.25	\$8.00
December 31, 2014	\$8.00	\$8.75
December 31, 2015	\$8.75	\$9.00
December 31, 2016	\$9.00	\$9.70
December 31, 2017	\$9.70	\$10.40
December 31, 2018	\$10.40	\$11.10
December 31, 2019	\$11.10	\$11.80
December 31, 2020	\$11.80	\$12.50
December 31, 2021	\$12.50	\$13.20
December 31, 2022	\$13.20	??

- Minimum wage has increased \$5.95 per hour since 2011, which is the last year the library asked for a large increase. It will continue to increase until it reaches \$15.00.

Building:

- The Phoenix Public Library was built in 1992. Since that time, our services have expanded to keep pace with modern librarianship, in a building that was not designed for 21st century needs. The proposed ballot increase will serve as funds to maintain the building in future years. Our plans are to expand electrical outlets to allow for more patrons to use their own devices, update the outdoor lighting for patron and staff safety and building security and to purchase a sturdy metal shed and shelving for storage. The parking lot needs repairs and continued maintenance. The building will also require roof repair/replacement for active leaks. Due to building age and damage caused by roof leaks the interior will require repairs, new paint and new carpet. Our library is not eligible for NYS Construction grant funds for these repairs.

Technology:

- Modern library service means providing high-speed internet access (including WiFi), as well as the equipment and infrastructure that make such access possible.

Q: Are there alternative funding sources available to the library?

In order to continue to provide services at the current level we are looking to address dwindling revenues and increased expenditures with taxpayer voted funding. The library receives funding from a variety of sources, including the village, the town, the county, and the state. This funding is completely discretionary and is never guaranteed.

Year	Village of Phoenix	Town of Schroepfel	Oswego County	LLSA
2010	\$19,000	\$10,000	\$4,739	\$73
2011	\$9,500		\$4,739	\$2,297
2012	\$9,500	\$8,000	\$4,739	\$1,317
2013		\$4,000	\$4,739	\$1,132 \$3,000
2014	\$19,000		\$4,732	\$1,398 \$3,000
2015	\$9,500	\$4,000	\$4,552	\$1,345
2016	\$7,500	\$4,000	\$4,614	\$1,404 \$5,000
2017		\$4,000	\$4,552	\$1,404 \$2,000
2018	\$13,500	\$4,500	\$4,560	\$1,418
2019		\$4,500	\$4,574	\$1,419 \$4,000
2020	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$4,628	\$995
2021	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$4,763	\$1,769
2022				

Q: Why now?

- The library is mindful of its responsibility as a publicly-funded organization to make every dollar go as far as it can in service to the community. However, after 11 years of operating with our current funding, the library is no longer able to provide the level of service the community deserves. The proposed increase will allow the library to not only implement the programs and services outlined in our board-approved strategic plan, but also to adapt to new trends and technologies as modern librarianship continues to evolve.

Year	Total Amount	Increase
2010	\$45,000	
2011	\$70,000	\$25,000
2012	\$70,000	\$0
2013	\$70,000	\$0
2014	\$70,000	\$0
2015	\$70,000	\$0
2016	\$71,400	\$1,400
2017	\$72,409	\$1,009
2018	\$74,000	\$1,591
2019	\$75,917	\$1,917
2020	\$75,917	\$0
2021	\$75,917	\$0
2022	\$151,834	\$75,917

Q: Why a referendum instead of a loan or a grant?

Placing a referendum on the school ballot is a sustainable way for the library to ensure it has the means to provide high-quality service to our community. It allows the voters a direct voice in the funding process, and once approved, it's funding the library can rely on year after year.

Q: How much will the increase cost me as a homeowner?

		Home Value	Home Value	Home Value	Home Value	Home Value	
		50000	100000	150000	200000	250000	
	Current Tax	\$ 5.46	\$ 10.91	\$ 16.37	\$ 21.82	\$ 27.28	
Increase of	\$ 75,917.00	\$ 10.92	\$ 21.82	\$ 32.73	\$ 43.64	\$ 54.56	
Diff		\$ 5.46	\$ 10.91	\$ 16.37	\$ 21.82	\$ 27.28	

Q: What is the library’s portion of the latest property tax bill?

The library tax is a separate line item on your school tax bill. The tax is separate from the school tax and is not part of the school district budget. All money collected from the library tax goes directly to the library.

Q: What will happen if the referendum does not pass?

Reduction in hours

- Without the proposed increase, reduction in service hours will be necessary. The library will only be open 25 hours per week and staff positions could be cut.

Reduction in service

- Without the proposed increase, a reduction in services will be necessary. The library will no longer be able to provide grab and go crafts, children’s programs, new books and other items, money for the shared purchase eBooks and audiobooks and opportunities for public use of library spaces.

Building project delayed

- Without the proposed increase, the building project will be delayed indefinitely.

Q: When will the vote be held?

The library’s school ballot referendum vote will be held on May 17, 2022.

Q: Who can vote?

Voters participating in the school ballot election must be at least 18 years of age and registered to vote either with the Board of Elections or the school. To find out more about voter eligibility, visit

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/> .