

VOTE

on NOVEMBER 4th

REMEMBER
TO FLIP
YOUR BALLOT

Dear Kent Residents,

The Kent Public Library is a cornerstone of our community, offering invaluable services and resources to everyone. We are reaching out to ask for your participation in the upcoming November election.

For five years, our library's funding from the town has remained the same. However, the cost of providing our services has increased significantly due to inflation. To continue offering the quality services you expect and deserve, we need an increase in our annual taxpayer-funded budget.

In November, a referendum will be on the ballot to increase the library's budget by \$81,809. This translates to an average increase of just \$18 per household annually, raising the average property tax amount for the library from \$99 to \$117.



Here are some frequently asked questions about the proposed budget increase:

What is a 414 vote?

Chapter 414 of the laws of 1995 in New York State allows libraries to put their budget up for a public vote on Election Day to establish their municipal budget appropriation.

How does Kent Public Library's current funding compare to neighboring towns?

The Kent Public Library (serving a population of 12,900) currently receives \$566,686 from Kent taxpayers each year. For comparison, Putnam Valley Library (population 11,762) receives \$347,650, and Patterson Library (population 11,541) receives over \$1 million.

Why does the library need this increase now?

Inflation has risen by 23% in the last five years, while our library's appropriation has not increased at all. This proposed increase will help us keep pace with rising costs.

Can't the Library seek grants and donations instead of increasing taxes?

We actively pursue all possible funding sources. In 2024, grants, donations, and contributions from our Friends group totaled \$37,909. While these funds are vital for beloved programs and expanding our collections, the library depends on taxpayer funding for its general operations.

Why do we need the Kent Public Library?

The library is a transformative place that offers access to books, the internet, and much more. In 2024 alone, community members visited more than 70,000 times to learn, share, and grow. The library provides educational opportunities, fosters lifelong learning, and connects people of all ages and backgrounds with a universe of resources. A vibrant public library enhances the quality of life for all residents.

I don't even use the library. Why should I pay for it?

Libraries offer a wide range of programs and services that benefit everyone in the community, not just those who check out books. These include early literacy programs, job search assistance, computer access, community events, and much more. This proposition helps ensure these vital resources remain available to everyone.

We urge you to vote in the upcoming election. Early voting begins on October 25, 2025, and General Election Day is November 4, 2025. Please remember to flip your ballot over to find our budget proposition.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kent Public Library.

