



William B. Ogden Free Library FAQ Library Proposition Vote

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QUESTION

When and where do I vote?

ANSWER

Voting will take place on **May 19, 2026**, from **noon-8 PM** at the Walton Central School District's bus garage on Delaware Street.

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QUESTION

Who is eligible to vote?

ANSWER

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a resident of the Walton Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You do not need to own property in the district.

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QUESTION

Did I already vote when I signed the petition?

ANSWER

No. The library must present a petition to show community support of the library tax levy. The petition ensures that the library's proposition can go on the school district ballot to be voted on by the community.

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QUESTION

Is the Library proposition part of the school budget?

ANSWER

No. The Library proposition is separate and is not part of the school budget. The school district's only role is to collect the taxes for the Library. The Library and the school district remain separate.

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QUESTION

Why does the Library pursue funding on the school ballot?

ANSWER

New York State Education Law §259(1)(b) allows association libraries to have a proposition placed on the school ballot.

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QUESTION

Is the Library asking for an increase?

ANSWER

Yes. The current levy amount is \$292,942. The May 2026 vote asks for \$326,722.

This increase will ensure the Library's long-term financial sustainability.

This level of funding is necessary to maintain the quality of our staff, programs, the purchase of a wide range of materials, and to preserve the integrity of our historic building.

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QUESTION

How much will the increase cost me?

ANSWER

The cost to you depends on the assessed value of your property. On average, the library tax will be **\$45-\$70 for the year.**

Currently a **property assessed at 100K** has an annual tax of \$41.34. If the vote is passed, there would be an increase of \$4.77, for an **annual tax of \$46.11.**

Similarly, a **property assessed at 150K** would increase from \$62.01 to **\$69.16.**

***Your annual contribution is equivalent to a tank of gas, a family pizza night, or the cost of two new hard cover books.*

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QUESTION

Why do we pay taxes if it's called the William B. Ogden FREE Library?

ANSWER

Historically speaking, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many libraries required a membership fee for exclusive use, so those that were open to the public were considered "free". Our library was named in 1895 when it needed the clarification.

What is Our Library Worth?

Library Services & Materials	2025 Stats	Valued At	Value of Use
Adult Books Circulated	6474	\$25.00	\$161,850
Children's Books Circulated	4314	\$20.00	\$86,280
Other Materials Circulated	1117	\$20.00	\$22,340
Interlibrary Loan Requests	3899	\$25.00	\$97,475
Digital Materials Circulated	5117	\$20.00	\$102,340
Adult Program Attendance	1707	\$20.00	\$34,140
Children's Program Attendance	2147	\$10.00	\$21,470
Computer & WIFI Sessions	4729	\$12.00	\$56,748
Reference Questions Answered	1450	\$8.00	\$11,600
Total Value of Library Use			\$594,243

“History has shown that when citizens have the right to directly vote on how much to tax themselves for public library service, funding for public libraries stabilizes and becomes sustainable, allowing a library to more adequately respond to community needs. It doesn’t get any simpler than that.”

*Rebecca Smith Aldrich
Mid-Hudson Library System*