

May 19th LIBRARY VOTE:

What you need to know

Q: Why is the library board seeking a public vote?

For the past 5 years, library funding from the Village of Richfield Springs has been the majority of funding provided to the Richfield Springs Public Library, along with \$6,000 from the Town of Richfield and \$6,000 from the Richfield Springs Public School District. New York State Education Law 259 provides public libraries with the option to place a funding proposition on a school district ballot.

Q: Why don't the libraries simply charge a fee to anyone who uses the library?

It is against New York State Education Law for a library to charge for its core services.

Q: What is the proposition that will be on the April 7th ballot?

The proposition will ask voters to approve an annual levy of \$231,791 to support the Richfield Springs Public Library.

Q: How much will this proposition cost taxpayers?

Property owners in the Richfield Springs school district would pay about \$.65 cents per \$1,000 of full assessed valuation, with moderate variations based on municipality. Supporting the library would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home only about \$65 per year.

Q: Does this mean the school district will be in charge of the library?

No, the Richfield Springs School District will collect the funds as required by NYS law, and the funds will go directly to the library. The library board will continue to be in charge.

Q: Are other libraries in the area funded all or in part by school district ballot propositions?

Yes, the public libraries in Deposit, Greene, Marathon, Norwich, Oxford, Fenton, Whitney Point, Lisle, Cherry Valley, Springfield, Afton, Bainbridge, Cooperstown, Hartwick, Edmeston, Franklin, Milford, Morris, New Berlin, South New Berlin, Otego, Unadilla, Sherburne, Smyrna, Stamford, Vestal, Worcester, and Walton are all funded through school district ballots.

Q: Will the annual levy for the library increase each year?

No. The funding will remain the same each year. A public vote would be needed to approve any increase.

Q: What are the voting logistics?

Date of the vote: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Voting place: Richfield Springs Central School,

Eligible voters: Adults (18 years of age and older) living in the Richfield Springs School District may vote.

Feel Free to call:

Mindy at the Richfield Springs Public Library – (315)858-0230