East Greenbush COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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2027 Budget Vote: Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Library asking for a tax increase?

The proposed 2027 budget maintains current Library services while addressing rising costs for salaries, employee benefits, utilities, technology, and building maintenance. The Library is requesting a **3.5% increase in the tax levy**, even though the total proposed budget is **1.5% lower than in 2026**.

How much will the increase cost me?

For a home assessed at $300,000, the estimated annual Library tax is $217.92, an increase of approximately **$6.84 per year,** or **57 cents per month**.

Assessed Value	Estimated annual Library tax
$200,000	$145.28
$250,000	$181.60
$300,000	$217.92
$400,000	$290.56

Actual taxes depend on final assessments, rates, and applicable exemptions.

I'm a senior on a fixed income. Why should I pay more?

We understand that every tax increase matters, especially for residents on fixed incomes. The Library provides free access to books, movies, newspapers, museum passes, learning kits, toys, digital materials, computers, Wi-Fi, educational programs, and community activities. These services help residents save money, stay connected, and continue learning at every age.

Eligible homeowners may also qualify for property tax exemptions. Contact the Town of East Greenbush Assessor's Office for information.

Why does so much of the budget go toward salaries?

Libraries are service organizations, and employees are essential to providing those services. Staff assist residents, maintain collections, offer programs, support technology, and keep the building operating safely.

Approximately 74% of the proposed budget covers employee salaries and benefits, including health insurance and retirement contributions.

Are Library employees getting raises?

The proposed budget includes a 3.5% general salary and wage adjustment, compared with 4% in 2026. It also includes scheduled step increases and targeted adjustments to maintain equitable and competitive compensation.

The Board of Trustees approves salary and wage schedules, which are available in public Board meeting materials.

Why can't the Library use its savings instead of raising taxes?

Library reserves are needed for major repairs, equipment replacement, building improvements, and unexpected expenses. Using these one-time funds to cover ongoing operating costs would not be sustainable.

The proposed budget already reduces contributions to capital reserves and uses a limited amount of accumulated funds to help offset expenses.

What happens if the budget is voted down?

The Library would not receive the proposed increase and would need to review its spending plans. Depending on available funding, adjustments could affect collections, programs, staffing, technology, or operating hours.

No specific reductions have been determined. Any next steps would follow the funding requirements established by law.

What does the community receive for its investment?

Based on 2025 usage and estimated service values, the Library provided approximately $10.45 million in services across its service area.

Service	**Estimated annual value**
Physical items borrowed (288,590 x $20/item)	$5,771,800
Digital items borrowed (177,630 x $45/license)	$7,993,350
Programs attended (35,705 x $10/person)	$357,050
Computer sessions (17,660 x $1/session)	$17,660
Meeting room reservations (1,131 x $50/reservation)	$56,550
Research help (38,576 x $15/session)	$578,640
Total estimated annual estimated value	**$14,775,050**

Proposed East Greenbush Tax Levy: $2,153,060

Estimated service value: ~$6.86 for every $1 in the proposed East Greenbush tax levy.

Based on $14,775,050 in estimated service value divided by the proposed $2,153,060 levy.

This comparison estimates the value of selected services used throughout the Library's service area, including Schodack. It is not a measure of actual household savings or a financial return.

Doesn't the Library receive funding from other sources?

Yes. The proposed budget includes $500,000 in anticipated funding through the Town of Schodack service agreement, along with grants, donations, interest income, and other revenues. These sources help reduce the amount needed from East Greenbush taxpayers.

When and where do I vote?

Monday, November 16, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the East Greenbush Community Library, 10 Community Way.

Eligible East Greenbush voters will consider the proposed budget and elect two Library trustees.

For additional information, visit eglibrary.org/library-budget-vote-and-trustee-election