

On **Tuesday April 25th from 10am-8pm** the four hamlet and village of Piermont libraries are asking for your support to increase funding currently received from the residents of the South Orangetown Central School District. We currently share, equally, \$225,000 approved by the voters of SOCSO during the last held vote in 1990.

Twenty-seven years later, we are now asking for an increase of \$275,000.



On **Monday, April 17th at 7pm** we will be holding a joint public hearing at the Orangeburg Library. We have prepared a Q&A so that you will be informed of what you will be voting on and where you will be voting. Please feel free to be in touch with your home Library Boards or Directors should you have questions prior to the public meeting.

The exact language of the vote is:

Resolved that pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District, Town of Orangetown, County of Rockland, State of New York ("School District"), be authorized to raise annually by tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, the sum of \$275,000 for library purposes for the Blauvelt Free, Orangeburg Free, Palisades Free, Piermont Public and Tappan Free Libraries, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and continuing annually thereafter. The sum of \$275,000 shall be in addition to the \$225,000 which is presently raised annually by the School District, for said libraries and allocated as follows:

\$100,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$45,000 presently raised for a total of \$145,000 for the annual support of the Blauvelt Free Library,

\$38,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$45,000 presently raised for a total \$83,000 for the annual support of the Orangeburg Free Library,

\$23,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$45,000 presently raised for a total of \$68,000 for the annual support of the Palisades Free Library,

\$31,500 shall be raised in addition to the \$45,000 presently raised for a total of \$76,500 for the annual support of the Piermont Public Library,

\$82,500 shall be raised in addition to the \$45,000 presently raised for a total of \$127,500 for the annual support of the Tappan Free Library.

When and where will the vote take place?

Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Voting will be open from 10am-8pm. Polling sites are as follows:

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 - Comprising the Hamlet of Blauvelt.

The Election within this District shall be held at the Blauvelt Library, 541 Western Highway, Blauvelt

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 - Comprising the Hamlet of Orangeburg.

The Election within this District shall be held at the Orangeburg Library, 20 Greenbush Road, Orangeburg

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 - Comprising the Hamlet of Tappan.

The Election within this District shall be held at the Tappan Library, 93 Main Street, Tappan

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 4 - Comprising the Villages of Piermont and Grand View, and the Hamlets of Palisades and Sparkill.

The Election within this District shall be held at the Palisades Library, 19 Closter Road, Palisades

The library seems ok the way it is. Why not continue as you have been?

The libraries need a stable funding stream in order to provide the level of service that each of our communities demand. Presently, the four hamlet libraries (Blauvelt, Orangeburg, Palisades and Tappan) formally request funding through the Orangetown Town Board each year. While we are grateful for what we do receive, we have seen a substantial decrease over the past 10 years with those funding fluctuations based on factors out of our control.

The Piermont Library District does have the ability to hold a direct budget vote since they are chartered with the State of NY as a Special Legislative District while the rest of the hamlet libraries are chartered as Association Libraries. All five libraries are part of the South Orangetown Central School District, therefore, this referendum applies to all five libraries and their constituents. Piermont Library District last held a vote to increase its budget in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Aside from town funding our only other option for ongoing annual funds is to join forces and place a referendum on the SOCSO ballot, separate and apart from any SOCSO school funding request. As a result of the last referendum placed on a SOCSO ballot back in 1990, we were successful in increasing our funding from \$150,000 to \$225,000.

With the upcoming April referendum we are looking to accomplish two objectives. First, we want to increase our overall funding by \$275,000 over the approved and continuing annual \$225,000. Second, we want to disburse the funds in a more fair and equitable manner. If successful, we will be changing the allocation calculation from a simple equal 20% split in favor of disbursing funds so that more of the monies remain within the hamlet tax boundaries where those monies were actually collected. Instead of the 20% equal share the allocations of the increase will result in the following allocation:

Blauvelt-29% Orangeburg-17% Palisades-14% Piermont-15% Tappan-26%

In 2016 our total receipts from Town funds and the current \$225,000 collected by SOCSO, per library were as follows:

Blauvelt: \$765,292
Orangeburg \$542,244 Palisades \$419,282
Piermont \$325,500 Tappan \$733,545

How much will this cost me if the vote is successful?

The following figures were provided to us by SOSCD:

The average home in Orangetown has an assessed value of \$200,000. The tax rate for homestead will be 0.135029% per \$1000. Non-homestead will be 0.221639%.

Based on those figures a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 is currently paying \$22 annually. If successful we will increase the total collected to \$49 per year, an increase of \$27 per year.

This \$27 represents a \$2.25 per month increase for library services each year.

Will this new tax automatically increase every year?

No. Any increase in funding must again be approved by you, the voters of SOCSO. Since these funds are separate and apart from school funding, even if your school taxes increase that increase will have no impact on our funding totals.

Why not seek more grant money and donations instead of raising my taxes?

While grants and donations are wonderful when awarded, they are not predictable revenues on which to base an operating budget and usually are earmarked for a specific purpose, such as construction.

Why not start to charge for library services to cover operating costs?

Free public libraries are a benefit to American democracy. A library does not charge directly, but relies on local taxes, contributions, and grants. The libraries building, staff and resources all cost money, but library services are too important to restrict to just those that can afford them.

I never use the library, why should I pay for it?

While we are sorry to hear that, we welcome you to visit the library anytime to see what we have to offer. We are always looking for ways to improve our service and reach more residents! We are continually looking for ways to serve the needs of all community members and are always open to your input. If you are unable to visit the library in person, you may still take advantage of the resources we offer such as ebooks, online resources, or our homebound delivery services. Our hamlet libraries are an important part of the community and increase the overall property value of your home.

What will happen if this vote is unsuccessful?

We will retain the ongoing annual allocation of \$225,000 that was approved by vote back in 1990. The allocation of this \$225,000 will remain as the simple 20% split.

Blauvelt Free Library

Board President: John Lounibos, Library Director: Laura Grunberg, 359-2811

Orangeburg Free Library

Board President: Sister Virginia Chiambalero, Library Director: Laura Wolven, 359-2244

Palisades Free Library

Board President: Marjorie Galen, Library Director: Maria Gagliardi, 359-0136

Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library

Board President: Marian Armstrong, Library Director: Jessica Bowen, 359-4595

Tappan Free Library

Board President: Victoria Caramante, Library Director: Sara Nugent, 359-3877