

# Union Library Funding Initiative 2019

## Background

In 2004, the voters of the Town of Union approved taxes to fund the town's two public libraries - Your Home Public Library in Johnson City and George F. Johnson Memorial Library in Endicott. This funding kept both libraries open and allowed them to return to a full level of service after years of cuts. Town voters approved funding increases in 2008 and 2014. **There has been no increase in the past five years.**

An initiative to request an increase in library funding is underway, similar to previous votes. The referendum will take the form of one proposition on the November 2019 ballot."

## Tax Impact

The proposed new amount would be split as follows:

- \$777,282 for Your Home Public Library in Johnson City
- \$1,122,497 for George F. Johnson Library in Endicott

The typical ESTIMATED residential monthly library tax payments to cover **both libraries** are:

House Value	Current Monthly Payment 2018	Proposed Monthly Payment 2019	Proposed Monthly Increase from Previous Year
\$50,000	\$2.50	\$2.78	\$0.28
\$75,000	\$3.76	\$4.17	\$0.41
\$100,000	\$5.01	\$5.56	\$0.55
\$125,000	\$6.26	\$6.95	\$0.69
\$150,000	\$7.52	\$8.34	\$0.82
\$200,000	\$10.02	\$11.12	\$1.10

## Library Usage

In 2018

- **177,015** people *visited the libraries*
- **212,961** items were *borrowed*
- **10,572** people attended **612** *programs*
- *Public computers* were used **27,999** times and there were **35,421** *WiFi sessions*
- Library staff answered **16,267** *reference questions*
- *Meeting/study room space* was used **571** times

## **The Voting Process**

Under current laws governing public libraries, the tax levy for the two town libraries can only be increased with direct voter approval at the ballot box. The signatures of *approximately 2,500* registered voters in the town are required to place the item on the ballot. This is the petition you are being invited to sign. ***Your signature only helps to place the item on the ballot; final approval depends on the outcome of the vote on Election Day 2019.*** All registered voters in the Town of Union are eligible to vote on the proposition. For information on registering to vote, or about absentee and early voting:

- Contact the Broome County Board of Elections at 607-778-2172
- Visit [www.broomevotes.com](http://www.broomevotes.com)

If the ballot measure passes, the new budget will take effect for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The new tax levy will appear on property tax bills around January - February 2020.

## **Citizen Participation on Library Governance**

Library Trustees come from all parts of the Town of Union - both villages and the non-village regions. Meetings of the library boards are open to the public and visitors are always welcome. Meeting schedules can be viewed at

- [www.yhpl.org](http://www.yhpl.org)
- [www.gflibrary.org](http://www.gflibrary.org)