



A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY



Riverhead Free Library is making great strides in our five-year improvement plan, and we are excited to share our progress and future goals with you. Over the past year, we have completed the much-needed HVAC project, ensuring a comfortable and energy-efficient environment for everyone who visits the library. Additionally, the new sound system for the Grand Room is set to be installed this spring, providing a high-quality audio experience for concerts, films, and lectures.

As we move into the second year of our five-year plan, we are focusing on renovating the Browsing Room and installing a new Coffee Bar. These upgrades will create a more inviting and modern space for the community to gather, read, and enjoy their time at the library. Your support makes these projects possible, and we are grateful for your continued investment in the future of Riverhead Free Library.

We are requesting that the community contribute to these well-thought-out projects by supporting our proposed budget. If approved, the average home in the Riverhead Central School District assessed at \$45,075 will pay a total of \$308.35 in taxes for the year for the Riverhead Free Library. This is an increase of \$17.15 over last year's cost. We sincerely believe this increase is modest when compared to the return on investment.

We invite you to join us on Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM for our budget informational meeting and trustee meet-and-greet. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the budget, ask questions, and meet the dedicated individuals shaping the future of the library. Most importantly, please be sure to cast your vote on Tuesday, April 8 to support these essential improvements.

The 2025-2026 budget levy is \$5,200,00.

\$5,062,000 is for the operating budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

\$138,000 is for our capital improvement program.

Your Board of Trustees believes that the budget proposal is worthy of your approval and a win for both the library and more importantly you, our community.

Sincerely,

The Riverhead Free Library Board of Trustees

Voter information: To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, and have been a resident of the Riverhead Central School district for at least 30 days. If you have not voted in a general, school, or library election within the past four years, you must re-register. For registration details, please contact the District Clerk at (631) 369-4724.



Riverhead Free Library

Proposed Operating Budget 2025-2026

| | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | Percent Change |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| MATERIALS/PROGRAMS | | | |
| Books | \$ 105,100 | \$ 88,000 | -16.27% |
| Digital Resources | \$ 268,000 | \$ 280,000 | 4.48% |
| Media | \$ 30,000 | \$ 30,000 | 0.00% |
| Periodicals | \$ 14,900 | \$ 12,000 | -19.46% |
| Library of Things | \$ - | \$ 10,000 | n/a |
| Programs | \$ 103,000 | \$ 120,000 | 16.50% |
| Museum Passes | \$ 10,000 | \$ 15,000 | 50.00% |
| BUILDING | | | |
| Computer Equipment | \$ 55,000 | \$ 60,000 | 9.09% |
| Furniture & Equipment | \$ 50,000 | \$ 55,000 | 10.00% |
| Building Improvement & Maintenance | \$ 75,000 | \$ 90,000 | 20.00% |
| SUPPLIES | | | |
| Office, Computer & Program | \$ 62,500 | \$ 65,000 | 4.00% |
| Custodial Supplies | \$ 8,000 | \$ 10,000 | 25.00% |
| SALARIES | | | |
| Salaries | \$ 2,268,000 | \$ 2,413,400 | 6.41% |
| UTILITIES | | | |
| Electricity | \$ 94,000 | \$ 100,000 | 6.38% |
| Fuel | \$ 30,000 | \$ 35,000 | 16.67% |
| Water | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | 0.00% |
| CONTRACTS | | | |
| Building & Grounds | \$ 200,000 | \$ 220,000 | 10.00% |
| Equipment Servicing | \$ 30,555 | \$ 31,100 | 1.78% |
| SCLS - PALS | \$ 30,000 | \$ 30,000 | 0.00% |
| SCLS - Automated Services | \$ 55,000 | \$ 55,000 | 0.00% |
| Membership | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | 0.00% |
| Professional | \$ 131,000 | \$ 215,000 | 64.12% |
| Payroll Service | \$ 22,000 | \$ 22,000 | 0.00% |
| Computer Software | \$ 30,000 | \$ 20,000 | -33.33% |
| LIBRARY OPERATION | | | |
| Insurance | \$ 70,000 | \$ 75,000 | 7.14% |
| Postage | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | 0.00% |
| Printing & Publicity | \$ 105,000 | \$ 110,000 | 4.76% |
| Professional Development | \$ 13,000 | \$ 13,000 | 0.00% |
| Telephone | \$ 9,000 | \$ 9,000 | 0.00% |
| Internet | \$ 29,000 | \$ 29,000 | 0.00% |
| Voting | \$ 11,000 | \$ 11,000 | 0.00% |
| MANDATED EXPENSES | | | |
| Mandated Expenses | \$ 1,096,600 | \$ 1,133,000 | 3.32% |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | | | |
| Capital Improvement Program | \$ 138,000 | \$ 138,000 | 0.00% |
| TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET | | | |
| Total Operating Budget | \$ 5,186,655 | \$ 5,537,500 | 6.76% |
| TO BE PROVIDED BY: | | | |
| Contract Districts, State Aide, Donations, PILOTS | \$ 213,107 | \$ 287,500 | 34.91% |
| Use of Fund Balance | \$ 50,000 | \$ 50,000 | 0.00% |
| OPERATING BUDGET TAX LEVY | | | |
| Operating Budget Tax Levy | \$ 4,923,548 | \$ 5,200,000 | 5.61% |

Please note the tax levy limit for the year 2025-2026 from the Office of the State Comptroller is \$4,998,333 for the Riverhead Free Library. The proposed levy is \$5,200,000 for the 2025-2026 year for the Riverhead Free Library. The proposed levy is over the tax cap levy limit by \$201,667. The levy limit is composed of the tax base growth factor of 1.0075 and the allowable levy growth factor of 1.0200 for a total allowable levy increase of \$74,785 to remain under the tax cap. *Real property Tax Cap Form from the Office of the State Comptroller