



Riverhead Free Library Budget Vote – Ensuring a Strong Future for Our Community

Riverhead Free Library (RFL) remains committed to providing exceptional programs, services, and resources for our community. As we approach the April 8 budget vote, we want to address concerns and clarify a few key points regarding our transition away from the Friends of the Riverhead Free Library (Friends).

First and foremost, we deeply **appreciate the volunteers** who have contributed their time and energy through the Friends organization. The decision to **seek a new nonprofit partner** was not about the dedicated volunteers but rather about the Friends' leadership and ensuring that every dollar raised directly supports the **mission and priorities** of the library.

It's also important to emphasize that **Friends' contributions were never a core part of RFL's annual budget**. The library's programs, services, and operations are funded through **carefully planned budgets**, which have consistently prioritized fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability.

RFL is actively working to **identify a new nonprofit partner** that is fully aligned with our mission and will provide **100% of its support to the library and its patrons**. This transition will help ensure that all fundraising efforts directly enhance the programs, services, and improvements that our community values most.

As we move forward, RFL remains focused on maintaining and **expanding programs without increasing financial strain on taxpayers**. The **proposed 2025-2026 budget reflects responsible planning**, ensuring that we can continue making important improvements—such as facility upgrades and program enhancements—while keeping costs manageable for residents.

We encourage the community to review the budget details and ask questions. All residents are encouraged to **vote on April 8** to help shape the future of the library.

Thank you for your engagement and interest in Riverhead Free Library.