

The Kirkland Town Library

Your Library, Your Voice

Why is this change necessary?

Two main reasons:

- 1) The Town of Kirkland has held library support at its current level since 2010. Given the tax cap, future increases for the library are doubtful. Expenditures, however, continue to increase. The library's trustees are charged with ensuring that sufficient funds are available to maintain the historic library building and support the collection, programs, and services our community needs now and in the future.
- 2) The State of New York established the school district and chartered the library to serve the educational interests of the Town of Kirkland. The school district budget is determined by members of the community, and the library's board believes that the library's budget should be as well. The library is a community resource that serves all, so it is appropriate that the community has a direct voice in determining its funding.

How much money is the library asking residents to provide?

The library is asking residents to allow the school district to collect \$324,784 annually in support of library initiatives. For 2020, the library tax levy would be \$.87 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. As an example, a home assessed at \$100,000 would result in a tax levy of \$1.67 a week.

Will my town taxes go down if the library's funding is collected on the school district bill?

The town board decides each year how to allocate funds and does so typically later in the calendar year. The library does not have a say in how the town board would choose to re-allocate the funds previously designated for the library.

Why should I support the library if I don't use it?

You may not use the library, but your neighbors and friends, children in our community, and area business owners do. They come for local organization meetings and educational programs, use computers and conduct research, borrow books or DVDs, and access online services. Every month the library welcomes an average of 5,500 visitors, and 64% of the residents in our service area hold a library card.

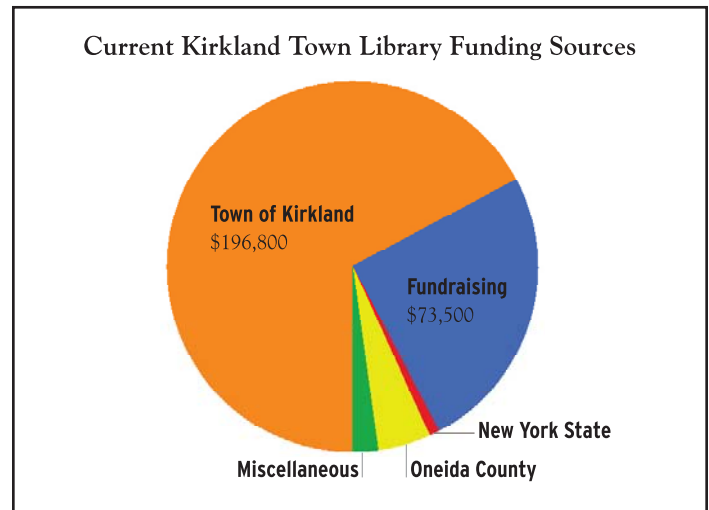
LIBRARY FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

- ▷ Cost of living has increased an average 1.67% per year, so what cost \$100 in 2010, now costs \$114.13.
- ▷ New York State minimum wage scheduled increases will raise personnel costs 30% by 2021.
- ▷ 2018 marked the eighth consecutive year of no increase in local funding, placing more pressure on fundraising.

Sources as Percent of Total Funding

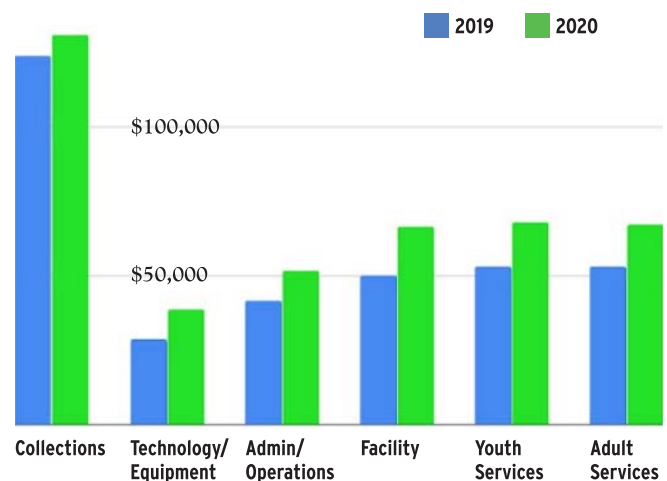


Current Kirkland Town Library Funding Sources



What will the proposed budget fund?

2019 KTL Expenses vs. 2020 Proposed Expenses



What will this new budget allow the library to do?

In addition to meeting basic operating expenses, the library will address changing needs and desires of our community.

▷ **INCREASED HOURS:** The library plans to increase hours of operation by 400 a year. It will open earlier, allowing people to stop on their way to work, and on Sunday afternoons during the winter to increase the time that families can visit the library together.

▷ **STAFFING:** Staff members facilitate access to a diverse collection of materials, provide technology support, and implement programming for all ages. Expanded library hours and increases in minimum wage requirements necessitate additional funds for wages.

▷ **COLLECTION & SERVICES:** Goals include shortening wait times for items and increasing digital offerings. The library will build on current programming levels and offer even more timely and relevant offerings for children, teens, and adults. More materials will be added to the collection to meet interests and demands of patrons.

Kirkland Town Library
55 ½ College St.
Clinton, NY 13323



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Currently, the Kirkland Town Library's primary funding source is through an allocation from the Town of Kirkland. On May 21, residents of the Clinton Central School District will have the opportunity to vote to support the library at the same time they vote on the school district budget.

If approved, this change will allow for direct community input into the funding the library receives and will provide a stable form of support that the library can count on each year.

When is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21
Noon to 8 p.m.
Clinton Central School Theater Lobby

What language will appear on the ballot?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District is hereby authorized to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$324,784, which will be distributed to the Kirkland Town Library to provide public library services to school district residents.

LOOK INSIDE FOR ANSWERS to frequently-asked questions about the library vote. For even more information, visit www.kirklandtownlibrary.org or contact Kirkland Town Library Director Anne Debraggio at adebraggio@midyork.org.