



**Tuesday,
April 29, 2025
10am-7pm**

**Public hearing Wednesday, April 23
at 7pm in the Blauvelt Library**

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025 the five So. Orangetown libraries will be asking for a \$150,000 increase to our current funding. The referendum language is as follows:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Educational of the South Orangetown Central School District, Town of Orangetown, County of Rockland, State of New York be authorized to raise annually by tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, the sum of \$150,000 for library purposes for the Blauvelt Free, Orangeburg Free, Palisades Free, Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public and Tappan Free libraries beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and continuing annually thereafter. The sum of \$150,000 shall be in addition to the \$600,000 which is presently raised annually by the Board of Education of South Orangetown Central School District, Town of Orangetown, County of Rockland for said libraries and allocated as follows:

\$34,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$174,000 presently raised for a total of \$208,000 for the annual support of the Blauvelt Free Library, \$20,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$100,000 presently raised for a total \$120,000 for the annual support of the Orangeburg Free Library, \$38,000 shall be raised in addition to the \$82,000 presently raised for a total of \$120,000 for the annual support of the Palisades Free Library, \$11,240 shall be raised in addition to the \$90,000 presently raised for a total of \$101,240 for the annual support of the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library, \$46,760 shall be raised in addition to the \$154,000 presently raised for a total of \$200,760 for the annual support of the Tappan Free Library.

If the referendum is successful, how much additional funding will each library receive?

Blauvelt Library: \$34,000 Orangeburg Library: \$20,000 Palisades Library: \$38,000 Piermont Library: \$11,240 Tappan Library: \$46,760

Where and when will the vote take place?

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 10am-7pm
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 Free 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 Free 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 Free Library, 19 Closter Road, Palisades

For more information, please contact:

Blauvelt Free Library

Board President: Michael Andrea | Library Director: Claire Morrissey
cmorrissey@rcls.org

Orangeburg Library

Board President: Judy Bivona | Library Director: Michele Galle-Looram
mgalle-looram@rcls.org

Palisades Free Library

Board President: Marjorie Galen | Library Director: Maria Gagliardi
mgagliardi@palisadesfreelibrary.org

Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library

Board President: Ed Sanford | Library Manager: Jana Buchan
jbuchan@piermontlibrary.org





Tappan Free Library

Board President: Kathleen Keefe-Cooperman | Library Director: Sara Nugent
director@tappanlibrary.org

How much will this cost an average homeowner?

The average assessed home in the South Orangetown School District is \$200,000 and currently pays \$57 a year for this tax. If this referendum passes it will increase the average homeowner's tax bill by \$14.25 a year or \$1.19 a month.

Approximate increase based on assessed home value:

\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000
			
\$10.69/year \$.89/month	\$14.25/year \$1.19/month	\$21.38/year \$1.78/month	\$28.50/year \$2.38/month

How is this legal?

Education Law Chapter 16, Title 1, Article 5, Part 2, § 259 authorizes libraries to hold a funding referendum through the school district. These funds are separate from and have no impact on the school's budget. The Board of Education's responsibility is to pass a resolution establishing the date and locations of the vote.

Will this funding cover all of the libraries expenses?

No. The Blauvelt Free, Orangeburg, Tappan Free and Palisades Free libraries are Association Libraries and receive the majority of their funding as special districts in the Town of Orangetown. Each year the four association libraries present a request to the Town Supervisor. The final amount received is at the discretion and approval of the Town Board. The Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library is a Special District Public Library and able to hold a budget vote each year in the Village of Piermont.

Will this 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 it will have no impact on funding the libraries receive from this vote.

How will the money be spent?

While each of the five libraries has its own unique needs, there are several common areas that require additional funding. These include general operating costs such as utilities, rising financial audit fees, building maintenance, as well as escalating healthcare costs. In addition to operational expenses, we will increase spending on digital content, programming, ADA-compliant websites, and IT infrastructure to mitigate security threats and prevent data breaches.

What is the History of the Funding?

The five libraries have jointly used the 259 law at different intervals to raise taxes for the libraries. The first 259 vote was in 1968 and the most recent was in 2022. At that time the public approved an increase of \$100,000 which was divided between the five libraries. This year we are requesting an increase of \$150,000 to be split among the five libraries.

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

While we are sorry to hear that, we invite you to visit the library anytime to see what we have to offer. If you are unable to visit the library in person, you can still take advantage of the remote resources we offer such as ebooks, streaming services, online programs or our homebound delivery services. Our SOCSO 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 \$600,000 that was approved by vote in 2022. Without additional funding some libraries may have to cut services.