



Patchogue-Medford Library Budget Vote & Trustee Election

This budget is in compliance with the NYS tax cap.

	Current 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027
LIBRARY CLASSES AND EVENTS	304,978	308,337
LIBRARY MATERIALS	589,600	509,600
LIBRARY OPERATIONS		
Furniture & Computer Equipment	107,957	110,116
Supplies	65,899	70,855
Professional Fees	57,507	59,371
Computer Services	131,000	134,975
Furniture & Equipment Maintenance	29,500	30,010
Postage	21,000	24,000
Staff Development	25,900	25,900
Printing/Public Information	49,000	49,000
Cooperative Services	100,000	90,000
Mileage	3,500	3,500
Unclassified	750	750
BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE		
Electricity	115,000	115,000
Water	4,570	4,900
Telecommunications	71,000	71,000
Fuel	26,010	26,530
Sanitation Services	65,280	65,280
Building Equipment & Maintenance	117,300	119,646
Insurance	123,000	123,000
Sewer Assessment	28,000	28,000
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	5,497,198	5,763,557
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
NYS Retirement	650,250	720,250
Social Security	398,820	440,000
Health Insurance	1,131,600	1,304,552
Unemployment Insurance	10,200	10,200
Disability Insurance	7,500	7,500
Workers Compensation	58,218	58,218
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	9,790,537	10,274,047
Less Anticipated Revenues	135,000	135,000
Transfer from fund balance		142,216
Amount to be raised by taxes	9,655,537	9,996,831



Budget Vote & Trustee Election

ONLY AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Tuesday, April 14

Stop by from 9:30 am-8 pm to cast your paper ballot. Budget information can be found on the back page.

Public Information Meeting & Meet the Candidates

Tuesday, March 31 at 6 pm

A WORD FROM THE CANDIDATES

Amanda Sanford

As a lifelong resident of Patchogue, the library has been a second home to me for as long as I can remember. Some of my fondest childhood memories center around participating in our library's Summer Reading Program, which nurtured my love of reading and learning.

In pursuing my degree in social work, I had the privilege of interning within my home district library. Through this experience, I gained an understanding of the role that library social workers play and of the vast number of services that the Patchogue-Medford Library provides to our community. The most impactful experiences I had as an intern involved facilitating our library's SMART Recovery meetings and supporting our unhoused community members. These experiences, coupled with the welcoming and inclusive environment created by our librarians, staff, and leadership, have inspired my ongoing commitment to working with these populations.

Since graduating with my MSW, I have had the privilege of continuing to facilitate our SMART Recovery meetings and have begun serving the unhoused community through my seat on the Nassau/Suffolk Continuum of Care's Governance Board. As our library continues to expand and evolve, I hope to grow with it.

In seeking a trustee position, I seek to give back to the place that has given me so much through the years. As a social worker, an educator, and a member of this community, it would be an honor to use my skills and passion to serve our patrons in a new capacity.

Andrea Stolz

I am a big fan of our Patchogue-Medford Library! I have loved participating in programs like the Extreme Book Challenge (52 books in 52 weeks) and have also enjoyed using our MakerSpace to make buttons and magnets and to print photos I've exhibited at Arts on Terry. I hold a BA in English from University of Mary Washington, a Family Development Credential from Columbia University and a Graduate Executive Certificate in Digital Media for Social Impact from University of Pennsylvania. I recently finished a career in family advocacy and education as the Executive Director of Long Island Families Together. Today I am the secretary for the Patchogue Lioness Lion's Club, where I coordinate our club's RAP (reading action program) and was last year's Robert Uplinger Award recipient. I feel that I have benefited throughout my life from public libraries—as a child here on Long Island, as a military spouse who moved to new communities regularly, and as a young parent – and now I want to help make sure that others experience those same benefits, too!

Sarah Wasser

I am a dedicated educator and librarian with over fifteen years of experience in public schools. Currently a Library Media Specialist at Syosset High School, I bring a deep understanding of the evolving role of libraries as hubs for learning, technology, and community. My leadership was recently recognized by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), which named Syosset High School the 2024 National School Library of the Year for creating a national model of community building and student inquiry. Having previously served the local community as a student library trainee at the Patchogue-Medford Library for three years, I possess a unique, firsthand perspective on the needs of our patrons. As a digital humanities scholar and adjunct instructor with a doctorate in Administration and Instructional Leadership, I am eager to leverage my expertise to support the library's mission of providing vital resources for education, culture, and community empowerment, continuing its 125-year legacy of service to all residents.

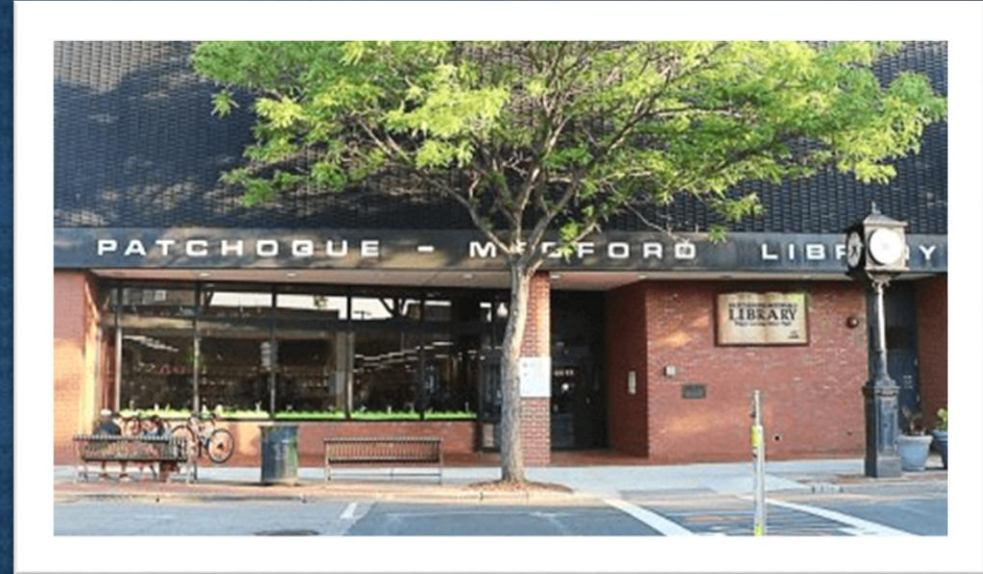
PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD
LIBRARY

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PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY

Public Information Meeting, March 30, 2026

PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027



The Library is proposing a 3.53% increase in compliance with the tax cap. Over the past 15 years, the Library has remained under the tax cap, taking NO increase in two of those years.

In that time, the Library has taken on the additional staffing and maintenance of two buildings and has increased access to library services for all residents in the district.

2025: Total real property tax 9,655,537

2026: Total real property tax proposed \$9,996,831

Average increase for a home assessed at \$3000 is \$9.84 per year.

(Average annual tax for total library fees for the above assessed home is \$492.)

PROPOSED INCREASE

1. **Library Staff, Social Security and Employee Health Insurance:** These increases will contribute to the funds needed for our contractual obligations to our employees who receive an annual cost of living increase, and NYSHIP health insurance. Now that we have three buildings, we are doing our best to maintain enough well trained staff to serve at all buildings and outreach events.
2. **Library Classes and Events:** We are increasing funds to offer programs at all three branches of our Library, along with additional sessions to meet the increasing demand.
3. **Library Furniture and Equipment:** The furniture throughout the main library is showing wear, and many areas require updates and refreshment. We plan to tackle this one area at a time.
4. **Computer Services:** More and more, we are using software to run different aspects of library work. In addition, we are seeing an increase in pricing and in our service contracts necessary to run our computers, printers, fax machines, scanners, etc.
5. **Fuel, Water, Sanitation services:** We added funding last year to cover these expenses and we hope that the increases to us from those companies remain in line with the increases we can add.

DECREASES

- We do not anticipate many decreases this year, unfortunately. Costs continue to rise locally, and we will need to monitor funding for this purpose. It is the board's priority to keep costs in check while providing the best quality service to the most amount of people in our community
- We decreased our materials budget by a significant amount, as circulation of hard items is down significantly. Staff are being asked to be more analytical and selective about the physical books being used by the community. We continue to fund our Overdrive/Libby service, which stats show that the majority of our community is using.

REVENUE

- The Library receives PILOT payments, varying in amount each year. We anticipate increased funds for 2026-2027 due to projects in development in the community.
- The Library has continued to receive an increased interest flow this past budget year by using NYCLASS, a liquid investment fund designed specifically for the public sector. Those funds have been designated to pay for the rising health insurance costs.
- We do take in money from copiers, fax machine and passports, which goes back to fund service contracts for the equipment used for those services.
- The Library continues to receive a Local Library Incentive Grant from NYS, usually totaling approximately \$14-15,000.
- The Library receives additional funding from the state for Central Library expenses. Please note, the Library receives these funds at varying times during the year. The Library needs to cover these funds with our reserves until the funds are received.

PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY

BY THE NUMBERS

- 26,433 community members have library cards! Of those, approximately 13,000 have actively used their library card in the last three months.
- Over 306,758 people visited the Pat Med Libraries in 2025, an 18% increase over 2024
- 28,006 people attended 1400 workshops and events at the Library in 2025, an increase of 10% over 2024.
- We answered 17,154 desk questions (up 28% from 2024) and had 186,724 visits to our website (up 6% from 2024) and
- The staff took on 5,238 one on one appointments this year, that's over 100 appointments per week.
- Our community checked out 216,826 items last year; that's over four thousand items per week, but it is a decrease of almost 16% percent from 2024.



PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

- The Main Library is open 60-64 hours per week, and the Carnegie Library is open 35 hours per week. The Medford Branch is now open 56-60 hours per week, providing a total of 7800 hours of service annually.
- Over the last 10 years, the Library has added two additional locations to better serve underserved communities—the Carnegie Library, a safe space for the teens in our district where they can spend time with friends or learn something new, and the Medford Library, an entirely new building, that is closer in proximity to the residents there, and open to everyone. These projects were funded by donations, capital savings and no bonding, all while staying in compliance within the tax cap. We continue to make fiscal responsibility a top priority.



GOALS FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

- Encourage Literacy! Expand and support all of our literacy activities to make sure we have well read community and are helping to create lifelong readers.
- Advocate for better funding for public libraries at the state level. We need your support!
- Increase disaster preparedness of all three libraries by adding an emergency generator
- Update and improve the façade, layout and atmosphere of the Main Library to best serve current and consistent library users
- Create an outdoor community space at the Medford Library for programs, a STEM/STEAM area for children, outdoor amphitheater, community garden, and public art.
- Explore sustainability projects to help save money including roof solar and other shared services



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD
LIBRARY

www.pmlib.org 631.654.4700