

Fact Sheet/Web Site Information From New Rochelle Public Library

Why we are asking you to vote on June 3rd

We are asking you to vote on the proposed budget of the New Rochelle Public Library for the fiscal years 2003 and 2004. This budget includes personnel, books and other materials, insurance, maintenance and administration - in short all the expenses associated with running a library.

Cast Your Vote!

Date: Tuesday, June 3rd, 2003

Time: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Place: The locations for the polling places are as follows:

School Election District

- SED #1 Henry Barnard School, 129 Barnard Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801
-- Resource Room

General Election District (G.E.D. 11 part of 14, 16, 38, 68, 69, 70, 74, 76, 77, 83)
- SED #2 Columbus School, 275 Washington Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801
-- Gymnasium

(G.E.D. 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 71, 80)
- SED #3 George M. Davis, Jr. School, 80 Iselin Drive, New Rochelle, NY 10804
-- Gymnasium

(G.E.D. 30, 32, 39, 40, 43, 46, 47)
- SED #4 Jefferson School, 131 Weyman Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10805
-- Gymnasium (Emmett Terrace Entrance)

(G.E.D. 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 72, 78, 82, 84)
- SED #5 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 95 Lincoln Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801
-- Dining Hall

(G.E.D. 10, 12, 13, 15, 49, 53, 60, 66)
- SED #6 New Rochelle High School, 256 Clove Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801
-- Auditorium Lobby (Clove Road Entrance)

(G.E.D. 34, 36, 37, 41, 48, 61, 64, 75, 79)
- SED #7 Trinity School, 180 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, NY 10805
-- Gymnasium

(G.E.D. 1, 9, 20, 28)

SED #8 Albert Leonard Middle School, 25 Gerada Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10804
-- Auditorium Lobby

(G.E.D. 31, 35, 44, 67)

SED # 9 Daniel Webster School, 95 Glenmore Drive, New Rochelle, NY 10801
-- Gymnasium

(G.E.D. 7, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63)

SED #10 Trinity School, 180 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, NY 10805
-- Gymnasium

(G.E.D. 25, 26, 27, 29, 73)

SED #11 Holy Name School Gymnasium, (off Sherman Street)

(2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 17, 65, 81)

SED #12 William B. Ward School, 311 Broadfield Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804
-- Cafeteria (Rear Entrance)

(G.E.D. 33, 42, 45)

SED #13 570 Fifth Avenue (community room), New Rochelle, NY 10801

(part of G.E.D.14)

What every Voter Needs to Know:

- The current budget for the New Rochelle Public Library comes from the City of New Rochelle and runs through June 30, 2003. Beyond that date, the city has no obligation or plans to support the Library.
- When the current library budget runs out on June 30, there are no other funds dedicated to keeping the library open.
- Therefore the library is presenting its budget to the voters of New Rochelle.
- Voting on the proposed budget for 2003-2004 will take place on June 3rd. At the same time, two library trustee positions will be up for election.
- The proposed budget will provide funding for the New Rochelle Public Library and the Huguenot Children's Library from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.
- Currently, New Rochelle Public Library is a member of the Westchester Library system. Without a library in the city, New Rochelle residents will lose their borrowing privileges at other Westchester libraries, including Scarsdale, Larchmont and Eastchester.
- Located in the heart of downtown New Rochelle, the Library currently operates as a heavily used center for research, circulation of materials, after-school homework help, services for seniors, and an active cultural mecca featuring concerts, films, exhibits and other activities supported by organizations like the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library, the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, the Westchester Council for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.
- Additional information about the Library may be found at www.nrpl.org

The current situation

Many residents last year opposed needing to vote on funding the library separately from other city services. However, as a school district Library, residents are legally obligated to appropriate its funding through this new process.

Legal background

Under the New York State Small Cities Act of 1996, libraries of small cities (population under 125,000) that were chartered as school district libraries must have voter approval before any tax can be levied.

In 2002, Commissioner Richard Mills reaffirmed that the New Rochelle Public Library is a School District Library and so the City of New Rochelle has no obligation to fund it. Following this decision, the City removed the Library from its charter and voted to fund the Library only through June 2003. The Board of Trustees is therefore proceeding with a budget vote.

Delivering high quality services at low cost

Of the 38 libraries in the Westchester Library System, the New Rochelle Public ranked 30th in 2001 for cost per citizen. Last year the New Rochelle Public Library fell even further behind in funding.

However, it is ranked second highest in number of reference transactions, circulation of books and other materials, and fourth in total number of books and other materials, and fourth in total number of books.

Even frequent library users may be surprised to know that grants and library support groups sponsor nearly all of the civic and cultural events that take place at the library.

Cost to property owners

The residents of New Rochelle pay an average of \$10,314 in city, county, school and special district taxes.

To support the estimated annual library budget, property taxes for the average property owner will go up 1.6%, or about \$174 a year - roughly \$14 a month. A family of four would contribute about \$3.50 per person, per month for library services.

When and Where

June 3rd, 2003 at your local polling place (See the reverse side for the polling place nearest you)

BUDGET EXPLANATIONS AND NOTES

PERSONNEL EXPENSES

FULL TIME – The Library has 31 full time employees. This budget includes filling one vacancy for an entry-level clerk for the circulation desk. In 2002 and 2003 we lost four clerks, none of whom were replaced. In order to be open the minimum of 55 hours, we need to replace one clerk.

LONGEVITY -- The union contract requires a lump sum payment of \$400 for each employee who has reached ten years of service and \$550 for each employee who has completed 15 years.

NIGHT DIFFERENTIAL -- Union employees receive a 7.50% differential for each hour worked after 6:00 p.m.

OVERTIME -- This includes restoring 26 Sundays to our service schedule. We are projecting being open for 57 hours per week plus four hours on Sundays.

HOURLY -- Hourly employees allow us the flexibility to operate beyond a 9 to 5, five-day work-week. Hourlies also provide extra staffing during our busiest hours of operation and provide vacation coverage. Hourlies are paid at a pro-rated amount compared to full-time employees, but do not receive benefits such as vacation or sick leave.

DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT -- We project replacing one personal computer and several printers for office work.

LIBRARY MATERIALS -- This figure includes books, magazines, reference materials, audio-visual materials. This figure remains static from 2002.

OPERATING EXPENSES

OFFICE SUPPLIES -- No increase from 2002.

POSTAGE -- Includes routine correspondence; budget mailings to all households.

FUNCTIONAL OPERATING SUPPLIES -- A decrease from 2002.

FACILITY REPAIR -- Maintenance contracts for heating, air conditioning, air handlers, elevators, water treatment. All repairs and upkeep on the building.

EQUIPMENT REPAIR -- Contract with Westchester Library System for Westlynx services -- circulation, reference terminals, on-line catalog, on-line databases. Repairs to other equipment, e.g. telephone system. The decrease is based on reducing the number of Westlynx terminals.

MILEAGE -- No increase from 2002.

UTILITIES -- Oil and water for Main Library; Con Ed and telephone for Huguenot.

TELEPHONE -- Verizon and AT&T long distance; city-wide contract has reduced costs.

PASNY -- Power Authority of New York State. The Library gets all its electricity through PASNY, which is a much cheaper source of power than is available from other vendors.

RENT -- Pitney Bowers postage machine.

FEES FOR SERVICES -- Library's Attorney, labor attorney

PRINTING -- The library is required to publish and distribute annual report.

AUDIT -- The library's audit is done through the city's accounting firm. This is our portion of the general audit.

CONTRACTED SERVICES -- Upkeep on grounds, rug cleaning, etc.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS -- We maintain Officers & Directors insurance. This figure also includes property, casualty and automobile insurance. We have separate computer equipment insurances that include damage from power surges.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING -- Librarians attend conferences and workshops to maintain and refurbish skills at a time when technology changes so rapidly.

GARAGE CHARGEBACKS - The library has one vehicle; this represents gasoline and upkeep.

EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS

NYS RETIREMENT -- We were notified on March 4, 2003 that the State will require a huge increase in our contribution to offset the losses suffered in the stock market. This figure may be adjusted downward, depending on further news from the Governor's and Controller's offices.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE -- Figures provided by finance commissioner.

HEALTH INSURANCE -- An increase from 2002. We have asked the school district if we would be eligible for a better rate by getting such insurance through their plans.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION -- A decrease from 2002, since libraries have a generally low accident rate.

DENTAL ALLOWANCE -- Dental insurance is provided to employees as part of their benefit package.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE -- The State passes on to us the cost of maintaining former employees.

NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DOES MORE WITH LESS

Of the 38 libraries in Westchester . . .

New Rochelle Public Library ranks 30th in support appropriated per capita.

New Rochelle	\$ 38.05	County average	\$ 54.48
Neighboring libraries:			
Scarsdale	\$106.60	White Plains	\$ 82.83
Larchmont	\$ 66.53	Eastchester	\$ 64.22
Mamaroneck	\$ 59.08	Mount Vernon	\$ 42.18

New Rochelle Public Library ranks 34th in library materials expense per capita.

New Rochelle	\$ 4.03	County average	\$ 6.68
Neighboring libraries:			
Scarsdale	\$ 11.16	White Plains	\$ 10.96

Larchmont	\$ 8.14	Eastchester	\$ 4.74
Mamaroneck	\$ 7.95	Mount Vernon	\$ 4.49

New Rochelle Public Library ranks 33rd in number of paid staff per each 2,000 of population chartered to serve.

New Rochelle	1.33	County average	1.94
Neighboring libraries:			
Scarsdale	3.48	White Plains	2.22
Larchmont	2.18	Eastchester	2.22
Mamaroneck	1.98	Mount Vernon	1.79

At the same time . . .

New Rochelle Public Library ranks 2nd in circulation of materials

(second only to Yonkers with a population 3 times its size)

New Rochelle	564,099	Yonkers	787,228
Neighboring libraries:			
Scarsdale	308,888	White Plains	521,258
Larchmont	257,306	Eastchester	261,847
Mamaroneck	182,313	Mount Vernon	176,335

New Rochelle Public Library ranks 2nd in reference questions answered

(second only to Yonkers with a population 3 times its size)

New Rochelle	198,324	Yonkers	209,563
Neighboring libraries:			
Scarsdale	57,785	White Plains	121,295
Larchmont	37,830	Eastchester	37,885
Mamaroneck	39,400	Mount Vernon	110,000

* All figures based on 2001 statistics.