Germantown Library
414 Funding Proposition for the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 Election
Frequently Asked Questions

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest." – Lady Bird Johnson

What is the 414 Proposition?
This proposition increases the amount of money allocated to the Germantown Library by the Town by $20,493 per year.

Where will the additional $20,493 come from?
The additional $20,493 will be an allocation from property tax receipts.

Is this a separate tax?
No. It is from property tax receipts collected by the Town.
The Town Board does not vote on the 414 Proposition: the issue is decided by the voters directly in the election. The money is distributed to the library by the tax collector and does not flow through the town budget.

Will my property taxes go up? By how much?
Yes, if the proposition is approved.
Your property taxes would increase by $5.41 per $100,000 of assessed value; for example, a property assessed at $300,000 would pay an additional $16.23 a year to the Town.

How much does the Library receive now?
The library currently receives $158,000 annually from the Town. This supports 75% of our operating budget, which is below other towns in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, where tax revenue support averages 83% (as of 2025).

Why does the library need this increase
To continue to provide essential services to our community, especially during the winter months: heating fuel costs have doubled since last year, and the library must now contract out for plowing services previously provided by others.

Increasing our budget has helped us achieve our goals this year: raising our staff's hourly pay rate, addressing inflationary spikes for our fuel, electric, and maintenance costs, and helping to defray the cost of electronic media (ebooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows), which has soared in recent years.

The library has been able to increase revenues from other avenues: grants, fundraising events like the 5k race, donations (including from other towns such as Clermont), and volunteer labor, but we need more stable funding.

What will happen if this 414 funding proposition does not pass?

If Germantown taxpayers do not support this 414 funding proposition, the Library might have to adjust service offerings, including reducing the range of programs and events it offers,

scaling back hours of operation, and limiting purchases of new materials and equipment.

When and where will the vote take place?
The vote will take place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at your usual voting place. All registered voters in Germantown may vote on this proposition.

To find your polling place, learn about Absentee voting, and Early Voting, visit: https://sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/elections/home

Who can I contact with more questions about the 414 Proposal? Board of Trustees Treasurer Stu Davidson Tribbs at sdavidsontribbs@germantownlibrary.org

How can I learn more about the Germantown Library?
Visit us in person at: 31 Palatine Park Road, Germantown NY, 12526 ● Call and write to us at: (518) 537-5800; director@germantownlibrary.org ● Visit us online at: germantownlibrary.org; www.facebook.com/GermantownNYLibrary; www.instagram.com/gtownlib

Anything else?
Remember to flip the ballot over and vote on Germantown Library funding, Tuesday, November 3, 2026!