

CHATHAM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY REFERENDUM SHAPING OUR FUTURE



YOUR LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS IN 2024



193,940

Items
Borrowed



552

Programs



3,550

Room
Bookings

Books, music,
games, movies
available

81,318



Patrons
Welcomed

76,362



Reference
Questions
Answered

13,057



WHAT IS THE LIBRARY REQUESTING ?

The Chatham Area Public Library is asking voters to decide on a plan to address building repairs, as well as maintain services, and support long-term financial stability.

ELECTION DAY APRIL 1

EARLY VOTING BEGINS
FEBRUARY 20



WHY NOW?

- Voters have not been asked for an increase to the operational tax rate since 2003

Aging Building

- Built in 1995, doubled in size in 2009 with no proportional increase to the operating tax rate. The building was expanded by a voter-approved bond referendum in 2007, which created a 20-year bond tax listed on tax bills. The building bond tax expires in 2026, one year early due to refinancing. The funds from the building bond tax can only be used for repayment on the bonds, not for operational costs.

Over \$2M Needed for Repairs

- Professional assessments identified critical infrastructure issues over the next decade, including major repairs to the North and East sides of the building.

Reserves Fall Short

- While the Library has some reserves to address regular maintenance, it cannot cover costly immediate repairs and ongoing maintenance combined.

How would the library referendum affect my property taxes?



For the median home value home in our Library District (\$285,000), the estimated increase in annual taxes is

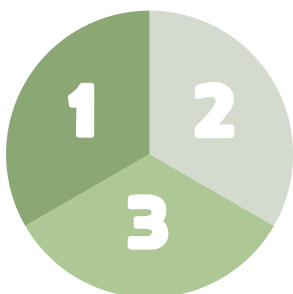
\$38.39
(\$3.20/month)

IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

The costly, critical infrastructure repairs must still be addressed, which may require a reduction of hours, services, and materials in order to pay for them.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. Critical Infrastructure Repairs & Ongoing Maintenance
2. Long-Term Financial Stability
3. Expanded Materials, Services, & Technology



Want to learn more?

www.chathamlib.org/referendum



CHATHAM
AREA PUBLIC
LIBRARY