



Under the Cupola

Zero tax-rate change

At its regular meeting on July 17, the Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously to place a proposal on the November ballot. That action, if approved, will result in a zero tax-rate change for residents.

The Proposal: The proposal requests a seven-cent (7¢) increase in the Library’s general operating tax rate; however, the overall tax rate for residents will remain the same, because the Library’s tax rate for paying off building construction



bonds—slightly more than seven cents—will be eliminated; the debt will be retired in December 2018.

The Need: If the voters approve the referendum proposal, then the board intends to use the revenue to maintain and repair the building and to maintain and improve services, especially in the following areas, as recommended by participants in the Speak Up! Community Engagement initiative:

Infrastructure Needs: Maintain the community’s investment in the Library’s building and site by systematically addressing long-term maintenance needs, which are identified in the Library’s Capital Asset Plan. The estimated cost of this plan is \$2.8 million in the first five years and \$5.1 million over 20 years (in today’s dollars).

Quality Staffing: Ensure exceptional services to Library users by providing and supporting quality staffing.

Robust Collections: Maintain a robust collection of materials in multiple formats (print, audio-visual, and digital).

Changing Technology: Respond to changing service and technology needs for all ages (infants to seniors).

Responsive Hours of Operation: Maintain and/or expand hours of operations.

The Pledge: The Board of Library Trustees is committed to a zero tax-rate change. As illustrated in the following chart, the Library’s proposal redirects the seven-cent tax rate used to pay back the construction bonds to the Library’s tax rate for operations to maintain the community’s investment in our nearly 20-year-old resource, the Batavia Public Library building and site.

Look for more information on the referendum proposal in coming weeks. The Library’s job is to provide the information you need to make an informed decision.

George H. Scheetz
Director

	Current 2017 Tax Rate for 2018 Taxes	Proposed Zero Tax-Rate Change for 2019 Taxes
Tax Rate for Operations	37¢	44¢
Tax Rate for Construction Bonds	+7¢	+0 (zero)
Total	44¢	44¢

Note: Rates per \$100 equalized assessed valuation (EAV).