

FAQ on Library Expansion Project

Who can vote for this project?

Any registered voter in the Schuylerville School District. The library serves all 10,000 residents in the school district, which is made of 7 towns and 2 villages.

How is the library structured?

The library is a school district public library, meaning that they share the same taxable district and serve the same residents as the school district. The public library is governed by its own 7-person board of trustees and has a budget separate and distinct from the school district's. No funding comes directly from the villages and/or towns within the district nor from the school district itself, rather funding comes from property taxes directly.

Why is this project needed?

Originally built for 1,400 residents, the two-room facility now serves 10,000 residents. Nearly three generations have grown since the library's last large building project and vote in 1968. Usage of the library is growing each year and last year alone, the library hosted over 650 public programs and welcomed over 37,000 visitors through its doors, providing not only access to library materials, but also free Wi-Fi, public computers, print/scan/fax services, notary service, an award-winning kindergarten readiness program, free museum passes, free produce from the Farm-2-Library program, an outdoor food pantry, and a free lunch program for kids each summer. During the community input sessions and surveys completed several years ago, the library's constituents requested more space and specifically the spaces in the library's current building expansion plans.

What is the projected cost of the project?

The project is expected to cost no more than \$6.5 million and would be collected from school district tax payers over a 20 year period should it be approved on August 12 by voters. This makes the cost about \$87 per household per year for the average home assessment in the district.

What has the library done to offset the costs of the current proposed project?

Knowing the long-term goal was to expand for several years now, the library has made smart use of New York State Library Construction Grants to make its building fully accessible, bring it up to code, provide an expanded parking lot and level sidewalks, a 500 sq ft reading room addition and an outdoor pavilion space. Last year, the Library also received a NYS Library Construction grant to demolish the residence adjacent to the library, which was just completed in July 2025. Utilizing these grants and an endowment has kept costs from directly impacting the community tax-payers and the library's been able to whittle away at some of the smaller projects in its master plan to make the current expansion less of a burden. The Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library have also run a successful capital campaign over the past year, raising over \$200,000 to help offset project costs.

What would be gained if this project is approved by voters?

Included in the project, will be more free public meeting spaces that may be reserved by the public, an 80-person multipurpose event space, two public restrooms, gallery space for local artists, a dedicated children's room, a dedicated teen room, an expanded Farm-2-Library area, and more!

When and where is the vote being held?

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Schuylerville High School from 12pm-9pm.

