

## Stanford Library's 414 Proposition Frequently Asked Questions About the Library's Vote

### **Q 1 The library seems okay the way it is – why don't you continue as you have been?**

- The library needs a stable funding stream in order to provide the level of service that our community requires. Presently, the library requests money from the town board each year and the amount received fluctuates. While we are grateful for what we do receive, it is not enough to meet current demands. As a result, we have had to curtail programs, put off improvements and adjust hours. Our 2005 local funding was only \$11.79 per capita, significantly below the \$26.25 average for Dutchess County. The reality is that our budget is very tight and we must locate a secure source of funds. Passage of this 414 proposition will address these issues.

[In addition, the need for more space has further necessitated the need for a secure source of funds, so we are able to plan adequately for an expansion.]

### **Q 2 How much will this cost?**

- The total cost per homeowner will be about \$31 per \$100,000 of assessed value. (\$60 for a home with an assessed value of \$300,000.) The average homeowner now already pays \$11 toward the library, so the increase is about \$20, or the cost of 2 to 3 hardcover books.

### **Q 3 Will the library tax automatically increase every year?**

- No. Any increase in funding must be approved by the voters of Stanford.

### **Q 4 Why doesn't the library seek more grant money and donations instead of raising my taxes?**

- Grants and donations are not predictable revenues on which to base an operating budget. They are better forms of supplemental income. Grants in particular are given to meet a specific need and are not usually available for the unrestricted funding of library services.

### **Q 5 Why doesn't the library charge for its services to cover its costs?**

- Free public libraries are a benefit to American democracy. A library does not charge directly, but relies on local taxes, contributions, and grants. The library's building, staff and resources all cost money, but library services are too important to restrict to just those that can afford them.

### **Q 6 I don't even use the library, why should I pay for it?**

- Sorry to hear that. Come and visit the library anytime, we are always looking to serve more residents. We'd like everyone to take advantage of the library's services, because there is something for everyone! We are continually looking for ways to serve the needs of all community members and are always open to your input. If you are unable to visit the library in person, you can still use many resources from our web page. The library is an important community resource that adds to the desirability of living in this town and increases the property value of your home.

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**General Election Day – Tuesday, November 7, 2006**  
**Stanford Town Hall, polls open from 6am to 9pm**

#### **Q 7 How will the money be spent?**

- The money will be used to operate the library and meet our community's growing demands for programming and a greater selection of current books, magazines, audiobooks and DVD's. In addition, there is a long-range plan for improving and possibly expanding the library.

#### **Q 8 What will happen if this 414 vote fails?**

- We will return to the town hall once again seeking a contract with the town for operational funding. If the town cannot sufficiently meet the library's needs, we will have to adjust service offerings, including the purchase of current materials and reducing programming, to match the level of funding provided by the Town.

#### **Q 9 Why do you need more space?**

- Our material holdings (books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, etc.) have continuously increased over the years and we are now seriously overcrowded. Our holdings are in the *upper* third of Mid-Hudson area libraries, but our usable space is in the *bottom* third. Our library is very active; the number of materials checked in and out of the library is also in the upper third among Mid-Hudson libraries. Increased computer use and expanded programming has also added space constraints. Further, current work and storage space is insufficient.

#### **Q10 Why do you need more room for books - can't you get them from other libraries now?**

- It is the obligation of each library to maintain an adequate collection. In order to borrow materials from neighboring libraries, the Stanford Library must contribute also. The expansion being considered would allow more space for children and adult books along with specialized collections such as audio books, DVDs, CDs. As interest in particular items grows we will make an effort to provide them.

#### **Q11 You mentioned a possible expansion. What will the expansion be like and when would you begin?**

- **Please Note:** The upcoming 414 vote involves a decision solely upon the library's operating budget.
- The expansion mentioned is something that is greatly needed, but will require a lot of planning over a period of time. We want to be sure that we get a "good fit" for our town's needs and resources. We are currently in the information gathering stage, having recognized the expansion as a genuine need for our community. Recently, we began visiting other libraries to see their design and what additional services they offer to their patrons. Once we have secured our financial base, we can begin looking at designs and considering how they suit our needs. Only after our operating finances are secure will we begin to look at beginning the expansion process.

#### **Q12 When and where will the vote take place?**

- The vote is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Voting will take place at the Stanford Town Hall. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

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