

New Library FAQs, Part 2

Why didn't I get to provide input on the project sooner?

It is customary for a project like this to be initiated by a Board of Trustees or Directors. In this case, the board heard concerns from the staff and the director beginning as early as 2017 indicating that the library facilities were insufficient for our current patrons needs. The board, understanding the current demand plus predicted population growth, began a utilization study in 2018. Following that study they secured professional advice from an architectural firm. They then went out to the public with a widely distributed survey and in person interviews to further customize the project. It was only after all this research that the board was able to come up with a new location, a solid building plan and dollar figure.

I heard there's a coffee shop going in the new library? Why would that be considered?

Based on surveys and in person interviews, a coffee shop was the number one requested feature for a new library. It was tied with "more books." Coffee and books complement one another. The coffee shop would potentially be run by North Star Coffee, a division of the Ontario County ARC who employs people with special needs, and supports other local businesses by purchasing local products. North Star Coffee will pay rent to the library, buy their own equipment and supplies, and be open only when the library is open.

This project costs \$16 million. How can taxpayers justify that cost?

When a large sum of money is distributed over the entire population, it becomes much more reasonable. Homeowners and local businesses without a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) would pay an additional \$55 for every \$100k of assessed value PER YEAR for the new library. Additionally, the library continues to seek pledges, donations, and grants to help offset the costs of construction.

I moved here from a more populated town because of the lower taxes. I don't want our community to become the next Pittsford and pay higher taxes.

Taxes in our community will continue to be lower, by comparison, to many of the surrounding communities for the immediate future. Taxes are an unpopular fact of life but no one wants to envision a future where taxes are so low we don't have the valuable services that we have come to expect.

Where will the existing businesses in the proposed location go?

Twin Elder Brewery has already moved to the location where Gourmet Goodies was (Gourmet Goodies is reopening in the Walmart plaza). Pizza D's has an agreement with the current owner of the property, UMAC has a proposed new location in the village, and the furniture store is operated by the property owner's wife. All businesses have been accounted for.

Could a smaller library plan be proposed next year? Can't you just eliminate some features to reduce the cost?

The proposed new library was developed with community and professional input, and is appropriately sized not only for today's needs, but for future community growth. Scaling back the current proposed size is unlikely to substantially reduce construction costs and will force the library to spend more resources to look for additional space in only a few years. Additionally, if the vote does not pass, the library's contract to work with the current seller of the new location expires, as would the offer to purchase the library building by a buyer willing to wait for construction to be done, and the entire process would have to begin again. It's taken five years to get to the point we're at today.

How will the proposed new library appear on the ballot?

Under the heading "VICTOR FARMINGTON LIBRARY FUNDING PROPOSITION", you'll see the following:

VICTOR FARMINGTON LIBRARY FUNDING PROPOSITION

YES

NO

Shall the Victor Central School District, Ontario County, New York, be authorized to levy taxes in the amount of \$2,542,000.00, separate and distinct from the School District's tax levy, for the Victor Farmington Library (the "Library") to pay the annual, cost of principal and interest (and other related amounts) on a loan or loans to be made to the Library to fund the purchase of property at 160 School Street in the Village of Victor (the "Property") and the construction on the Property of a new library building (the "Project"), substantially as described in the plan prepared by the Library with the assistance of HBT Architects (the "Plan"), which Plan is on file and available for public inspection at the Library at 15 West Main Street in the Village of Victor, including demolition and other work required in connection with the Project, and the furnishing and operation of the Project, and for the annual support of the Library; and then pay over such monies to the trustees of the Library for library services for the benefit of residents during the 2023 fiscal year and each year thereafter.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

You can contact the Victor Central School District at 585-924-3252, x1402 to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are only given to registered voters who meet one of the following criteria:

- A patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place because of illness or physical disability
- or duties related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- Outside of my county of residence because of my duties, occupation, or business.
- On vacation outside of my county of residence.
- Inmate or patient of a veteran's administration hospital.
- Detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial.
- Confined to jail or prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony

Where can I find usage and statistics on the library?

Statistics can be found on our website at <https://victorfarmingtonlibrary.org/annual-report/> in the form of yearly reports to the public.

If the cost of the new library exceeds the current projections, will there be another tax increase?

No, the current estimate factors in inflation and increased construction costs for 2023 and 2024. This August, the library will receive a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) from the construction manager. If the GMP is more than expected, the library board is committed to making the difficult decisions about what features to cut. In this way, taxpayers can be confident the proposed increase is the total increase to build a larger, modern library.

Who is funding the Vote Yes for the New Library campaign?

The Vote Yes campaign is organized and run by a group of volunteers committed to the proposed new library. This committee is funded through donations, and cannot legally be funded by the library board of trustees.

Where can I find more information about the proposed library?

<https://victorfarmingtonlibrary.org/new/>