

A Guide to Rensselaerville Library 2021 Budget Vote

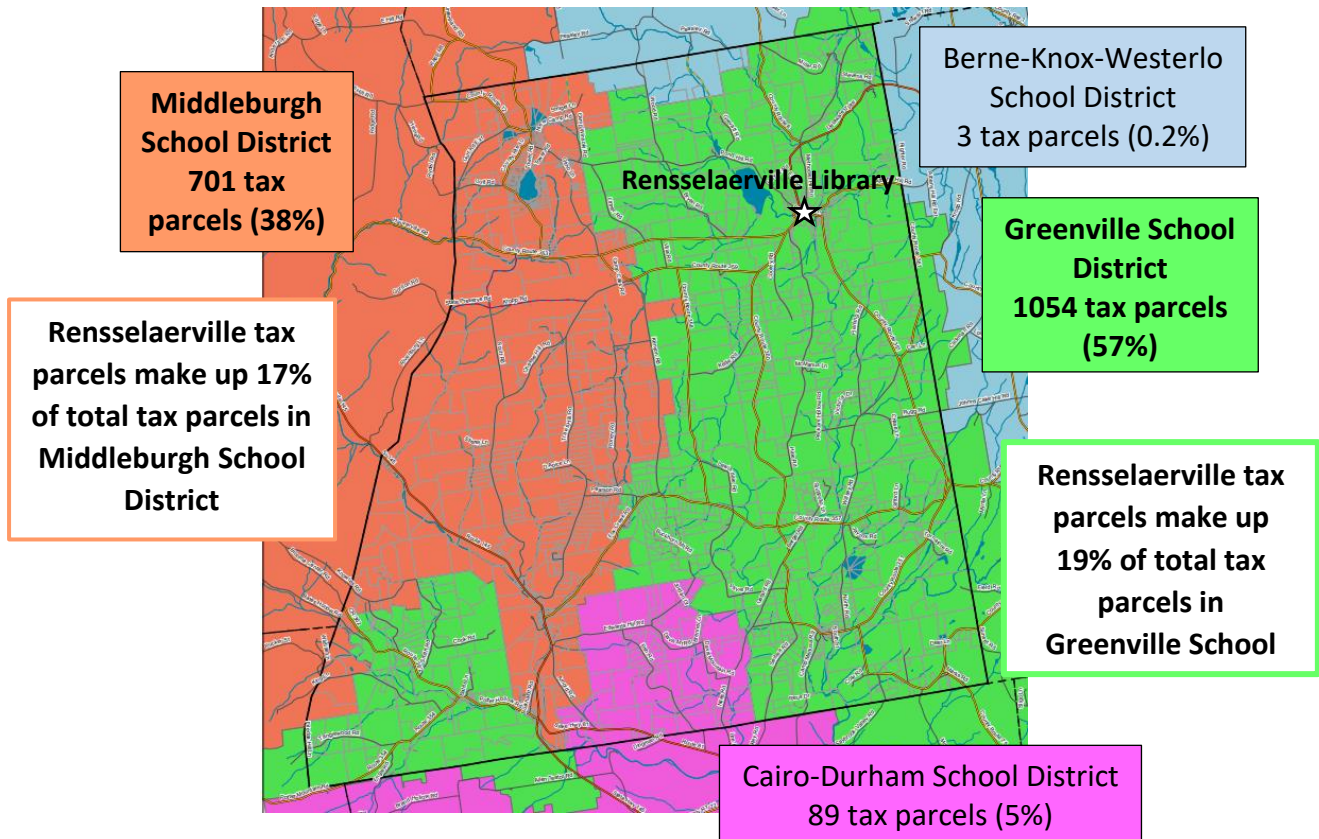


RENSELAERVILLE
LIBRARY

We are asking the residents of Middleburgh School District to vote for a tax levy of \$15,000 to support the Rensselaerville Library. The approximate annual tax levy for a household with property assessed at \$100,000 would be **\$6.00**.

The Rensselaerville Library is chartered to serve the residents of the Town of Rensselaerville and surrounding areas. Residents of Rensselaerville live in four school districts, with 38% of parcels in Middleburgh School District and 57% of the parcels in Greenville School District.

Town of Rensselaerville School District Map





The Rensselaerville Library is the heart of the community. Housed in an historic reading room, the library provides intellectual and social resources that enhance and enrich the lives of children and adults alike.

The library offers the following essential services:

- Expanded collection of books for all ages
- New release DVDs
- Downloadable Books and Audiobooks
- Interlibrary Loan
- Free wireless and high-speed internet
- Computers, scanner and a color copier
- Help with your technology questions
- Free Databases
- Children’s story hours
- STEM Family Projects
- Summer Reading Programs
- Author talks and other stimulating talks and programs
- Job skill classes
- Meeting Space
- Fine-free library – no late fees on books and other materials!

How is the Library currently being funded?

Currently, only 39% of Rensselaerville Library funding comes from public sources (Town of Rensselaerville and Greenville Central School District). More than half (51%) of the library’s operating budget is from fundraisers and individual donations. While the library is fortunate to have strong community support, reliance on donations and fundraisers for a significant portion of our operating budget is unsustainable and requires a significant time investment from library trustees and staff, leading to less available time to improve library services.

2020 Library Budget – Income

Income Type	Income Source	Amount	% of total
Public Funding (39%)	Greenville School Tax	\$27,046	20
	Town of Rensselaerville	\$25,500	19
Contributions and fundraising (51%)	Individual Contributions	\$44,275	32
	Fundraisers	\$25,700	19
Other (11%)	Sale Items, Miscellaneous	\$3,400	2
	Rent	\$7,560	6
	Grants	\$1,200	1
	NYS Local Library Funding	\$1,350	1
	Program Services & Fees	\$800	1
	TOTAL	\$136,831	

Is there another way to fund our libraries?

Libraries can ask for funding directly from school district voters based on New York Education Law §259. On Tuesday May 18, 2021 residents of Middleburgh School District will vote on a 259 referendum to provide support for the Rensselaerville Library. If the referendum is approved, the library will receive support from school district residents. The funding level will remain stable every year. Currently, the Rensselaerville Library receives funding from residents in the Greenville School District using this law. Greenville school district residents have been voting in favor of funding for the Rensselaerville Library for many years.

How much is this going to cost?

The proposed library tax levy is \$15,000. In 2020, there was \$262,513,213 of total taxable value in the Middleburgh School District. This equates to a \$0.06 tax for every \$1000 of taxable value.

Property assessment	Annual tax levy for Rensselaerville Library
\$50,000	\$3.00
\$100,000	\$6.00
\$150,000	\$9.00
\$200,000	\$12.00

Residents of Middleburgh School district are already paying taxes to support the Middleburgh Library. Why should we support another library?

Middleburgh Library is part of the Mohawk Valley Library System while the Rensselaerville Library is part of the Upper Hudson Library System. If the vote is approved, residents of Middleburgh School district will be able to get a library card from Rensselaerville Library, which will provide access the library's collections as well as the collections of other libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System. In addition, you will be able to access the digital resources of the Upper Hudson Library System:

- Hoopla, a digital media service that allows you to stream movies and TV shows and borrow audiobooks and eBooks.
- OverDrive, a service that contains a large selection of ebooks, digital audiobooks, digital magazines and streaming videos.

Comparison of Costs for Digital Content

Audible (audiobooks)	\$14.95/month	VS.	Yearly Cost of Rensselaerville Library Tax Levy *
Kindle Unlimited (magazines, ebooks)	\$9.99/month		
Netflix Basic (movies)	\$8.99/month		
Total \$33.93/month or \$407.16/year			\$6/ year

* For a property assessed at \$100,000

Will this take money away from the Middleburgh School District?

No, the money collected for libraries is in addition to the monies collected to support the school district. The library funding proposition will be on a separate line from the school district funding vote.

Will all residents of Middleburgh School District pay this tax or only those living in Rensselaerville?

All residents of Middleburgh School District will pay this tax.

Why can't the library tighten its budget?

New York State libraries must fulfill minimum requirements, including being open a certain number of hours. These hours must be covered by trained staff who are paid competitive wages. Money is also needed to purchase new items for the collection and cover utilities, insurance and other fixed expenses.

Don't libraries have other sources of income?

The library receives a small amount of funding from New York State and collects rent on an apartment above the library. We also have received grants to cover special events, building upgrades and technology items, but grant funding can't be used for operating expenses. Fundraising has been a significant source of funds for the library and will continue to be used to raise funds for capital improvements and other long-term projects.

How will the budget vote language read on the ballot?

"Shall the Middleburgh Central School District, Schoharie and Albany Counties, State of New York, be authorized to levy taxes in the amount of \$15,000, separate and apart from the annual School District budget, for the annual support of the Rensselaerville Library, Rensselaerville, New York, and pay over such monies to the trustees of the Library for library services for the benefit of residents of the School District during the 2021-2022 fiscal year and each year thereafter until changed?"

Who can vote? When is the vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the Middleburgh School district for at least 30 days prior to the vote is eligible.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 18.