

## **2025 Gloversville Public Library Vote Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### ***What is the Gloversville Public Library vote on?***

The vote will include the Library's budget proposition and Library Trustee Election for four seats.

### ***How does this budget compare to last year's?***

Last year's tax levy was not approved by the voters and so the tax levy remained at 2023-24 levels and necessary cuts in hours, staff, and programs were implemented.

We also heard voters - this next year's budget includes a modest tax levy increase of only 28.99%, down from last year's defeated 59% tax levy increase request. This budget proposal begins the rebuilding of some hours, staff, collections, and programs but does not restore operations to the 2023-24 levels.

### ***Will you be increasing your hours and/or bringing back my favorite program/service?***

The 2025-26 proposed budget will bring back weekend hours and revive many programs and services for children and adults. All restorations will align with Civil Services hiring timelines, and new hours could start as early as this fall.

### ***How do I find out more about running for trustee or information on the residents running?***

There are four vacant seats to be filled, three 5-year terms and one 1-year year term. Information packets are available at the Library's Information Desk. Eligible candidates must be residents of the Gloversville Enlarged School District, be 18 years of age, and not be an immediate family member of a current Trustee. Interested residents must collect at least 25 signatures on petitions to have their name on the ballot. Completed packet paperwork is required to be delivered to the Library by Friday, April 4, 2025 by 5:15 PM. Once the candidates have been determined, you can learn more about them on the Library's website at <https://gloversvillelibrary.org/election/>

### ***When is the vote?***

The vote is on May 20, 2025, from 11 AM - 8 PM at two locations, Gloversville High School and Bleecker Town Hall. The Gloversville Enlarged School District (GESD) will run the voting process, and the Library's tax levy and trustee candidates will appear on the same ballot as the school budget. This is a change designed to make voting easier for area residents. *Please note the vote **will not** be held at the Library.*

### ***Who is eligible to vote?***

Anyone registered to vote who resides in the Gloversville Enlarged School District (GESD) is eligible to vote in the Library election. That includes residents of the City of Gloversville, as well as the Towns of Bleecker, Caroga, Johnstown, and Mayfield. If you are not registered to vote, you have up until 10 days before the vote to register with the Fulton County Board of Elections,

visit [https://www.fultoncountyny.gov/voter-information#Elections\\_Voter\\_Registration](https://www.fultoncountyny.gov/voter-information#Elections_Voter_Registration) for more information.

***Will people be allowed to vote by absentee ballot?***

Yes, absentee ballots are available this year through the school district at <https://www.gesdk12.org/page/boeelection>.

***How many votes are needed for the passage of the library tax levy proposal?***

A simple majority of those cast in the election.

***Where will I vote?***

The election will be held at the two locations: Gloversville High School Gym, 119 Lincoln Street, Gloversville and Bleecker Town Hall, 575 County Highway 112, Gloversville. *Please note the vote **will not** be held at the Library.*

***Why is an increase proposed?***

An increase in the levy is necessary to reinstate Library hours, to provide the requested and vital programs and services for all our residents, and to safely staff and maintain the Library facility.

***How will this affect property taxes?***

The average tax rate for the library tax will be approximately \$.81 - \$1.96 per \$1,000 of assessed value for property located within the school district. The average tax on \$100,000 assessed value will be approximately \$80.83 - \$196.07. The following table illustrates specific rates for school district residents:

<b>City or Town</b>	<b>Percentage of Tax Levy</b>	<b>Rate per \$1,000</b>	<b>Annual Tax on \$100,000 Assessed Value</b>
Gloversville City	53.7%	1.1549	\$115.49
Town of Bleecker *	15.1%	0.8083	\$80.83
Town of Caroga *	0.2%	1.9607	\$196.07
Town of Johnstown*	30.8%	1.6901	\$169.01
Town of Mayfield *	0.2%	1.9264	\$192.64

\* These rates apply only to properties within the Gloversville Enlarged School District. (STAR does not apply to the library tax rate.)

***What does that look like for average homeowners in the City of Gloversville?***

If the voters pass the Library’s proposed 2025-26 Budget, homeowners with \$100,000 assessed value could expect an \$25.95 increase which is equal to the cost of buying one standard hardcover book, and less than the \$61 spent monthly by average American families on streaming services.

***What other sources of income does the library have?***

The balance of the Library's annual operating budget comes from grants, private donations, income from the Gloversville Library Foundation, and The Friends of the Gloversville Public Library. The Friends will also continue their ongoing fundraising efforts on behalf of the Library for special projects.

***Why don't you seek more grant monies and donations?***

In the past four years the Library has obtained more than 40 public and private grants for specific programs and infrastructure repairs. The Foundation and Friends also actively pursue individual contributions and the response has been generous. We will continue to seek grants and donations, but it is not realistic that these, alone, can fund Library operations.

***Why don't you use the Foundation to run the library?***

Investment income from the Foundation will provide 14% of the annual operating budget. If the endowment's principal is spent, there will be less and less income to use in future budgets. Without this income, a much greater amount of tax money would have to be raised each year. In addition, the wills of many of the people who left money to the library stipulated that only the investment income from their gift could be used; the principal was not to be 'touched'.

***Why can't you just charge a fee to anyone who uses the library?***

It is against the NYS Education Law, which requires that public library service must be "forever free."

***What will happen if the proposition is defeated?***

The number of hours the library is open will have to be further reduced. Austerity in staffing, programs, purchases of books, and hours will continue or increase.

***Why do you need so many employees? Why not just use volunteers?***

The Gloversville Public Library is required by the NYS Department of Education, Division of Library Development to ensure that the Library is staffed adequately to safely operate and maintain a facility that is open to the public. That determination is based on square footage and building layout, as well as program and service priorities.

The Library is also part of the NYS Civil Service system that ensures qualified staff are secured and protected under State hiring guidelines for government and municipal offices.

Balancing the use of paid staff and volunteer work is informed by guidance from the NYS Department of Labor, which states that volunteers may not *replace or augment paid staff to do the work of paid staff or be required to work certain hours.*

<https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/p726-6-22-23.pdf>

The Gloversville Public Library benefits greatly from the many volunteers including those who serve as Trustees, Friends members, and the Foundation Board of Directors, and for that we are eternally grateful.

### ***Why should I support the library if I don't use it?***

A public library improves the value of the community as a whole. Businesses and homeowners look closely at these resources when they make decisions about where to locate. A strong library helps attract people to our community and enhances the quality of life for all our residents.

- **Free Access to Resources:**  
Our Library provides free access to a vast collection of books, audiobooks, videos, e-resources, and online databases, regardless of income or background.
- **Lifelong Learning and Education:**  
Our Library offers programs and resources for all ages, including early literacy, recreational, and continuing education programs.
- **Community Hubs:**  
Our Library serves as an important community gathering place, offering spaces for study, meetings, and events, fostering connections and a sense of belonging.
- **Digital Literacy and Technology Access:**  
Our Library provides free internet access and computer assistance, where individuals can apply for jobs and vital services, research health issues, develop essential digital skills, and stay connected.
- **Preservation of Knowledge:**  
Our Library is an important repository of knowledge about the city of Gloversville, preserving historical records, cultural artifacts, and literary works for future generations.
- **Promoting Literacy and Reading:**  
Our Library plays a crucial role in fostering a love of reading and promoting literacy skills, which are essential for personal and societal development.
- **Safe and Inclusive Spaces:**  
Our Library offers a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of age, background, or ability, providing a place to learn, explore, and connect.
- **Supporting Research and Information Literacy:**  
Our library teaches people how to find, evaluate, and use information effectively, empowering them to become informed and engaged citizens.
- **Community Engagement:**  
Our Library partners with a wide array of local organizations to address community needs.
- **Essential community resources:** our Library, like our school system and hospital, are essential resources.