



Port Jefferson Free Library Report & 2026-27 Proposed Budget

BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING

Monday, March 23, 4:30 PM

Absentee Ballots Available Through April 13

LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

* To vote you must be a resident of the Port Jefferson School District for at least 30 days prior to the day of the vote, a U.S. Citizen, and at least 18 years of age. School district policy does not require pre-registration to vote. New voters may register immediately prior to casting their vote.

Phone: 631-473-0022

www.portjefflibrary.org

March 2026

2025 In Review: We love serving Port Jefferson

We experienced a full year of having the Park at 114 and saw it serve a wide range of functions; From a Shakespeare performance Dance Programs to partnering with the Village for the Fall Faire and Witches Day Out. The Park @114 is the little park that can. It serves community members as a place to find solitude and sunshine. Our children's department brought Baymen with touch tanks and bubble-filled story times, lovely weather days have invited yoga and crafts programs to go play outside.

The Teen Center opened in March '25. The Staff use the 1812 homes renovated spaces and technology to welcome 6-12th graders. The Teen Center saw the addition of a new part-time Librarian (welcome Nick!) while two long-time teen staff left for new opportunities to become a School-Media teacher and a chance to retire and snow-bird. We combined both positions into a single part-time Librarian position and welcomed Amanda to the team.

PJ Teens completed 2369 hours of Community Service work, built a Lego Robotics team that advanced to the semi-finals, and ran a Summer Learning Program that focused on creativity and art making.

In our Children's Department, demand for programs and services remained high. The return of our Spring Quail hatch brought in delighted patrons, our Family Fun Day in July entertained more than 500 people, our very active Summer Reading program had more than 500 registrants, and our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten continued to help our youngest patrons get school-ready. Take home craft kits first introduced during COVID remained hugely popular so staff continued to build them weekly.

Behind the scenes, the Children's Department began to dream and design our renovation which will begin in 2026. Books that haven't been checked out in many years have begun to be deleted so that space can be made for the changes to come.

The Adult Reference team led a number of very popular bus trips and outings including a visit to Sleepy Hollow, a kayak tour, and a visit to the Tenement Museum. 694 Museum Passes were borrowed, and 533 people bought reduced price tickets to The Long Island Aquarium, Adventureland, or the Long Island Ducks. Craft and Art programs and fitness classes continued to be patron favorites.

We hosted a wide-variety of monthly exhibits in our Meeting Room and in our foyer display cases. English for new learners and a variety of history and culture programs, both in person and on Zoom, entertained and educated.

In '25 we witnessed a 106.8% increase in circulation of our mobile hotspots, and more activity in our relocated magazine checkouts. Movie DVDs, audio books and music CDs continue to shrink in demand with more patrons streaming movies and music for free using Hoopla and Kanopy and their library cards. One-on-One appointments to meet with our social worker (Helping Hands) remained steady, as did the number of homebound community members who received home delivery.

Port Jefferson Free Library 2026-2027 Proposed Operating Budget

	Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027
Materials & Programs		
Books	224,000	222,000
Programs	218,000	218,000
Audio-Visuals	67,500	57,300
Periodicals/Print & Non-print	18,000	18,000
Automated Shared Services	122,000	125,000
Personnel		
Salaries	2,429,500	2,485,000
Retirement	328,000	375,000
Payroll Taxes	189,000	191,500
Insurance Benefits	669,500	718,500
Library Operations & Services		
Library Supplies	58,000	54,000
Telecommunications	13,000	10,500
Postage	24,000	22,000
Printing and Publicity	34,000	32,000
Conference and Travel	10,000	10,000
Professional Fees	56,500	55,000
Library Insurance	37,000	37,000
Building & Grounds		
Building Maintenance	40,000	35,000
Utilities	93,500	95,500
Equipment Rental and Repair	18,000	14,000
Building Improvements	35,000	35,000
Service Contracts	28,000	30,000
Equipment	106,000	90,500
Transfer to Capital Fund	90,495	76,500
Operating Budget	4,908,995	5,007,300
Minus LIPA/PILOT	(144,651)	(160,000)
Minus Contract Districts & Revenue	(1,254,825)	(1,264,325)
Operating Budget Expense	3,509,519	3,582,975
Total Tax Appropriation	3,509,519	3,582,975
Assessed Valuation (Est.)	19,735,069	18,611,452
Tax Rate Per \$100	17.78	19.25

2% Proposed Budget Increase

*The proposed tax amounts to an estimated total monthly increase of \$5.51 per month for the average household. *The typical house is assessed at \$4,500.*

Librarians in all departments devoted time to reviewing our book collections and ordering book requests and worked to remove books that haven't circulated in years which allows us to shelve new items. In 2025 the number of our patrons who downloaded digital books surpassed the number of physical books we checked out.

2025 marked the 100th anniversary of the construction of our historic front room. Big facilities projects included new air handlers, cleaning of the ductwork, replaced outdated servers, increased security tools, new conference and meeting room furniture, a large screen TV for presentations, and a staff bathroom renovation due to a long-standing plumbing issue. A more economical phone system and new copier/printer contracts allowed us to do away with charges for faxing, reduced the printing and copying charges to a flat .10 each, and introduced remote printing services.

We received notification from the Federal Government and we can no longer process passports effective February 2026.

Looking Forward

Spring 2026 will bring back quail incubation, dinosaur-themed Summer programs, a Community Read book by a terrific Long Island author (Chris Pavone's *The Doorman*). We will partner to celebrate the sesquicentennial, continue to celebrate Port Jeff's Year of the Tree, and bring new community partnerships like music jam-sessions, play readings and fresh exhibits.

This year's to do list includes a landscape redesign to create more inviting spaces around the library grounds and to address some grading and path-way issues that will kick off this spring.

Inside, new service desks, fresh paint and flooring fixes, new comfortable seating, and the creation of new study/ meeting and reading spaces are in the works, along with a long-overdue overhaul of our Children's Department in order to deliver a more inviting space for our collections, programs and play.

Our catalog will look and operate differently beginning in the next weeks as the platform that serves the whole county will be updated to a new version of the system. You will now find all of our holdings in the catalog, including our download-ables. Staff are here to help.

Our website continues to be your portal to free access to research, newspapers and archives, genealogy resources, career and student support including tutors through Brainfuse.

Upcoming events include our April 15th Board of Elections voting machine demonstration, April 18th Dump the Junk recycling and shredding event, our April 25th Teen Job and Internship Bootcamp. Visit portjefflibrary.org to check out our full calendar of programs, and visit our Friends' bookstore in our main Library building for great deals on great finds.

2026 Library Budget Vote- Tuesday, April 14th from 10 AM-9 PM

The largest expense in our proposed budget for 2026-2027 is our staff costs. Our 43 employees (about half of whom are part time, and half are fulltime) and their health and retirement benefits (7.5% cost increase and 14.3% cost increase respectively) make up just over 75% of our costs. All employees' wages follow the 2023-2028 Union contract with an annual commitment to a 2% cost of living raise. Our lowest paying jobs stay just ahead of minimum wage and all our Librarians hold Masters in Library and Information Science degrees from accredited programs and NYS Librarian certifications.

We are slightly reducing our spending for physical audio-visuals and adult books, while increasing our spending on ebooks and other digital resources in order to respond to the changing check-out habits of our Patrons. Ebooks are increasing in demand, and have significantly higher costs due to licensing relationships within the publishing industry.

Savings from our less expensive phone system and copier contracts are helping to offset the large staff benefit cost increases.

In short, we are proposing a 2026/2027 budget that looks very similar to last year's budget and keeps us within the 2% inflation growth cap which increases tax payer contributions by roughly \$5.51 a month (depending on your home's assessment).

The Port Jefferson Free Library's Staff take seriously our role as stewards of our community's taxes and trust as we work every day to serve our residents. We hope to see you in the library soon.



Port Jefferson Free Library

100 Thompson Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 38
Port Jefferson,
New York 11777

POSTAL PATRON

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Andrew Thomas	Trustee
Jenny Bloom	Director

LIBRARY HOURS

Main Library	631-473-0022
Monday - Thursday	9:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday - Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 PM
Teen Center	631-509-5707
Monday - Thursday	12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friday	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday	1:00 - 5:00 PM