

Your Piece of the Pie!

Funding options for libraries



NYLA Rural Library Roundtable

November 2010

TYPES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Municipal Library (198)

Appointed Trustees. Funding varies

Association Library (326)

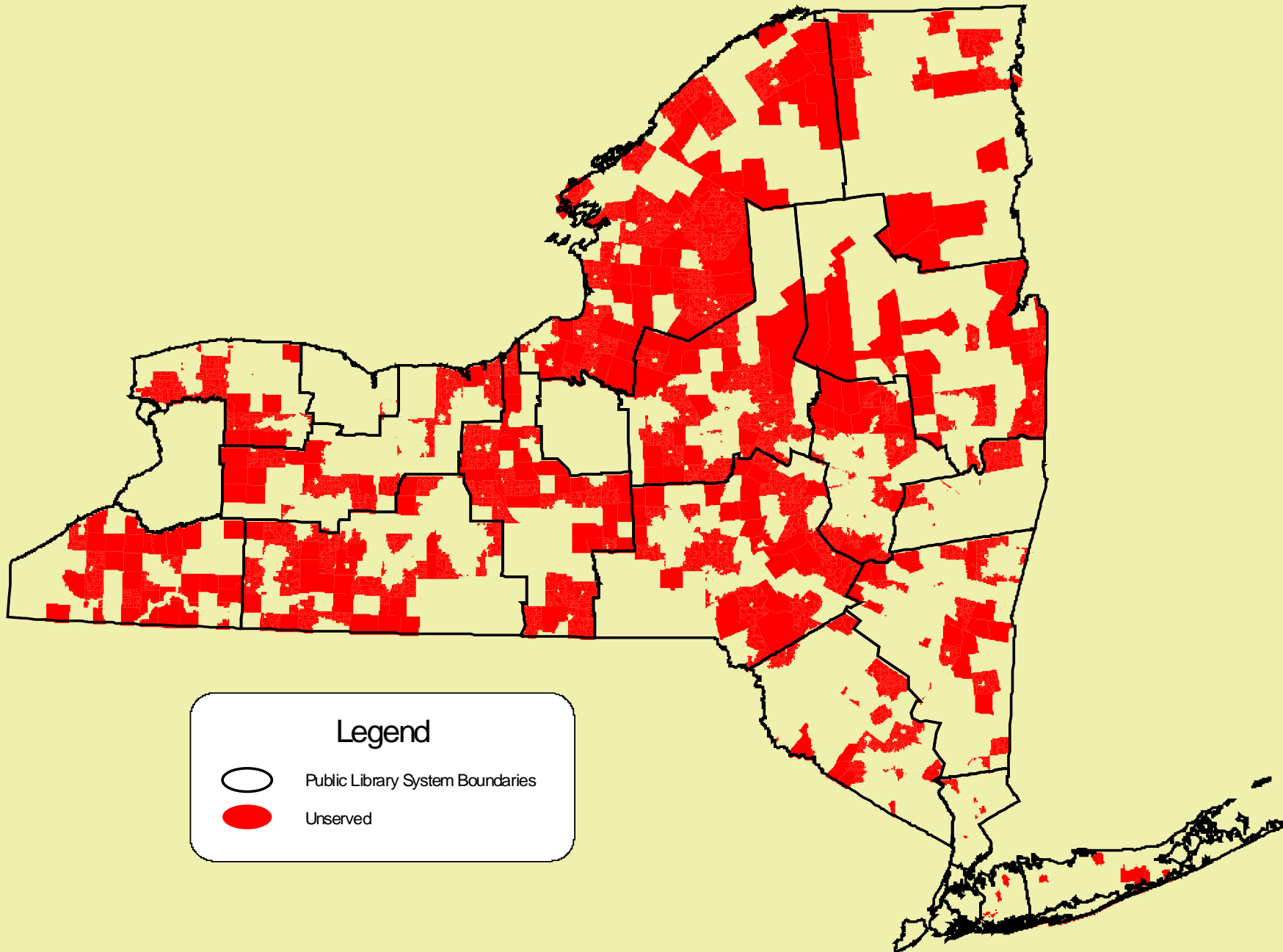
Elected or Appointed Trustees. Funding varies.

School District Public Library (181)



Elected trustees. Funding by public vote.

Special Legislative District Public Library (45)

Elected Trustees. Funding by public vote.



Legend

-  Public Library System Boundaries
-  Unserved

Funding Options

Municipal Budget

- Village, town, city, county

Referendum Item

- *School Ballot*
- *Municipal Ballot*

District Public Library

- *With School District Boundary*
- *Special Legislative*



Related Issues

- Legal costs
- Marketing campaign
- Relationship with municipality
- Long Range Plan
- Community survey



Municipal Funding: Considerations

- Traditional
 - Little Time or Effort Required
 - Reliable (?)
 - Municipal Board is Supportive (?)
- Municipal Board dictates line items (?)
- Library has influence over cuts/increases (?)

School Ballot Referendum

(Education Law 259.1.a)

- Does not require re-chartering
- Library maintains status as Municipal or Association
- Simple Process
- Short Timeline
- Can either prevent or cause “Double-Dipping”
- Provides stable funding
- Trustees not elected
 - Can lead to charges of “Taxation without Representation”

School Ballot Referendum Steps

1. Library Board passes a resolution.
2. Library Board meets with School Superintendent to explain the process
3. Library Board presents a petition (25 qualified voters) that contains the Referendum item.
(Ed. Law 255.1)
4. Public education campaign is conducted
5. Referendum appears as a separate item on the school ballot
6. The Vote is Successful
7. School District collects the tax
 - Library appears as a separate line on tax bills

Municipal Ballot

Education Law 259.1.b.(1)

- Does not require re-chartering
- Library maintains status as Municipal or Association
- Simple Process (but with more steps than School Ballot)
- Short Timeline
- Can either prevent or cause “Double-Dipping”
- Provides stable funding
- Trustees not elected
 - Can lead to charges of “Taxation without Representation”

Municipal Ballot Steps

1. Petition deadline is obtained from the Board of Elections
2. Library Board passes a resolution
3. Library Board meets with Town/Village Board to explain the process
4. Petition Signatures (10% of the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election)
5. Library Board presents petition to Municipal Board
6. Public education campaign is conducted
7. Vote takes place at general election in November
8. The Vote is Successful
9. The Municipality collects the tax

WHAT IS A PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT ???

Any Public Library that:

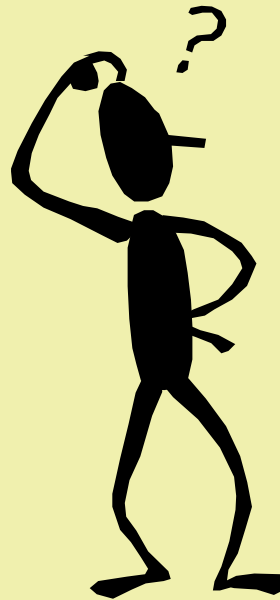
- Obtains a substantial amount (60% or higher) of its funding through a public vote
- Has a Board that is elected by eligible voters within the library's service area

Common Elements for Districts

Vote on Budget

Vote on Trustees

WHY CREATE A
PUBLIC LIBRARY
DISTRICT?



Improve Services

Predictable Funding

Increased Autonomy

Simplified Funding Stream

Equity & Fairness in Tax Support

Enhanced “Ownership” by the Community

Change Boundaries to Reflect Service Area



PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT OPTIONS

- 1. School District Public Library**
- 2. Special Legislative District**
- 3. Association Library District**

SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC LIBRARY

SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Created by school district voters
- Boundaries are the same as school district
- Library operates independently
- School district collects the tax

SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY STEPS

1. Library conducts a community survey & revises long range plan
2. Library Board decides to move forward
3. Board meets with School Board and Municipal Board
4. Municipal Board should vote to support the District
5. Petition to create library are filed with the School District
(25 signatures of qualified voters - Education Law 255.1)
6. Petitions to nominate Trustees are filed with the School Board
(25 signatures or 2% of votes from last Election: Ed. Law – 260.8)
7. School District schedules election & places legal notice
8. Library Board conducts a vigorous publicity/education campaign
9. Resolutions pass. Trustees take office & apply for charter
10. Old library dissolved & assets are transferred
11. School District collects taxes
12. Funding remains stable until Library Board places new proposition before the voters. Library Board sets time and place for elections.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Advantages

- Library operates independently
- Elected trustees provide “representation” for taxpayers
- Potential to increase tax base and expand program
- Opportunity to bond for capital projects
- Once established, library sets time & place for election
- Stable Funding
- May eliminate double taxation (“double-dipping”)
- Simple process for seeking increase in funding

SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Considerations

- May have to assume functions currently provided by the Municipality
- Minimum state standards may be higher if population increases
- Trustees subject to election
- Requires strong advocacy and education campaign
- Civil Service & municipal purchasing laws

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

- State legislation authorizes local election to establish and fund a new library
- Legislation specifies service area and election process
- Boundaries freely drawn - reflect library user base
- Separate from any municipality
- Ability to bond for capital projects

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY STEPS

1. Library conducts a community survey & revises long range plan
2. Library Board decides to move forward and defines the service area & the budget for the new library
3. Library Board meets with the Municipal Board(s)
4. Municipal Board should vote to support the District
5. Legislation is drafted and bills introduced
6. Bills are passed and signed by the Governor.
7. Local election is scheduled to create the district
8. Petitions for Trustees (25 signatures) are filed with Board of Elections
9. Library Board conducts a vigorous publicity/education campaign
10. The Vote is successful!
11. Trustees take office & apply for charter
12. Old library is dissolved & assets are transferred
13. Municipality collects taxes
14. Funding remains stable until Library Board places new proposition before the voters.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Advantages

- Service area can be drawn to mirror patron base
- Library operates independently
- Elected trustees provide representation for taxpayers
- Potential to increase tax base
- Potential to bond for capital projects
- Vote could be held within the library
- Stable Funding
- May eliminate double taxation (“double-dipping”)
- Simple process for seeking increase in funding

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Considerations

- Two step process to create the district: Legislation and Elections
- May have to assume functions currently provided by the Municipality
- Minimum state standards may be higher if population increases
- Trustees subject to election
- Requires strong advocacy and education campaign
- Civil Service & municipal purchasing laws

ASSOCIATION LIBRARY
DISTRICT

ASSOCIATION LIBRARY DISTRICT

- Option available to Association Libraries
- Substantial amount of operating budget (60%) must come from a municipal or school district ballot.
- Bylaws must provide for the election of Trustees

ASSOCIATION LIBRARY DISTRICT

ADVANTAGES

- Does not require re-chartering
- Short timeline
- Library controls budget process
- Stable Funding
- May eliminate double taxation (“double-dipping”)
- Simple process for seeking increase in funding

ASSOCIATION LIBRARY DISTRICT

CONSIDERATIONS

- No opportunity to bond for capital projects
- If the municipal ballot is used, petition process must be repeated to increase funding
- Exempt from Civil Service

COMMON TO ALL BALLOT ISSUES

- *Trustees must speak with one voice*
- Prepare answers to difficult questions
 - Why can't the library run with volunteers?
 - Is this an additional tax?
 - Why are you raising my taxes?
 - The Library has an endowment. Why don't you spend that first?
 - Why not apply for more grants?
 - Shouldn't the Town/City/Village just give you more money?
 - Will the tax increase automatically?
 - I don't use the library. Why should I pay for it?
 - The library seems fine. Why do you need more money?

Have all the right answers

- Printed information that answers hard questions (FAQ's)
- MEDIA: Get to them before they get you!
- Transparency is essential
 - (you have nothing to hide)

- Division of Library Development:

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/pldtools/index.html>

- NCLSWEB.org

– Go to Class Handouts under Continuing Education

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