2026 414 Vote FAQ

1. What is a 414 vote?
It is a proposition on the election ballot in November that allows taxpayers to earmark a specific amount of their town tax dollars to be allocated to our Library.

2. How much money is the Library requesting?
The Pine Plains Free Library Board of Trustees is proposing a 5% ($11,000) increase in the annual contribution from property taxes for 2027. The Town contribution would go from $220,000 to $231,000.

3. How will the money be spent?
Most of our budget goes towards basic operating costs, such as personnel costs to keep the library open 6 days a week, material costs for books, and digital content. A portion also goes towards community outreach like Kids Club, Exercise classes, and Youth programs, special programming, faxing, computers and software, as well as supplies and equipment. The only things the library charges for are copies.

4. How much will this cost me?
An average Pine Plains home valued at $300,000 would see a few cents increase in their tax bill, if any.

5. Will voting "yes" automatically increase my taxes?
No. This vote gives a voice to voters on how much of their property taxes already collected by the Town of Pine Plains the Library gets to utilize. A vote to increase taxes must be approved by the Town Board and given a public hearing during the Town's annual budget-setting process.

6. The Town provides the Library with its space and utilities. How does that affect Library funding?
The Town of Pine Plains allows the Library to use parts of Community Center building. While this generous contribution keeps Library facility costs low, it doesn't contribute to the costs of keeping the Library staffed or provide for the increased demand and costs for materials, programming, and services.

7. Will the library budget be included on the ballot every year?
Yes. Our current plan is to bring the library budget to the voters every year.

8. How much usage is our Library getting?
Compared to 2023, our 2025 library visits increased 24% (10,929), program offerings tripled (1,112), attendance more than doubled (8,587), and checkouts increased 25% (18,385).

9. How do other towns fund their libraries?
All libraries in the Mid-Hudson system are now funded via 414 votes.

10. What will happen if this 414 vote fails?
The Library will continue to receive $220,000 for our budget. However, we will not be able to keep up with costs and will have to reduce services or supplies for patrons and programs.

11. When and where is the vote? Who can vote?
All residents of the Town of Pine Plains who are registered to vote can cast their ballot on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, General Election Day. Vote at your regular voting location. The Library proposition is on the **back** of the ballot and will be a simple “Yes” or “No” question.