



# An Introduction to Funding Your Library

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## Similar Values, Unique Structures...

Let's assess the uniqueness of our library structures.

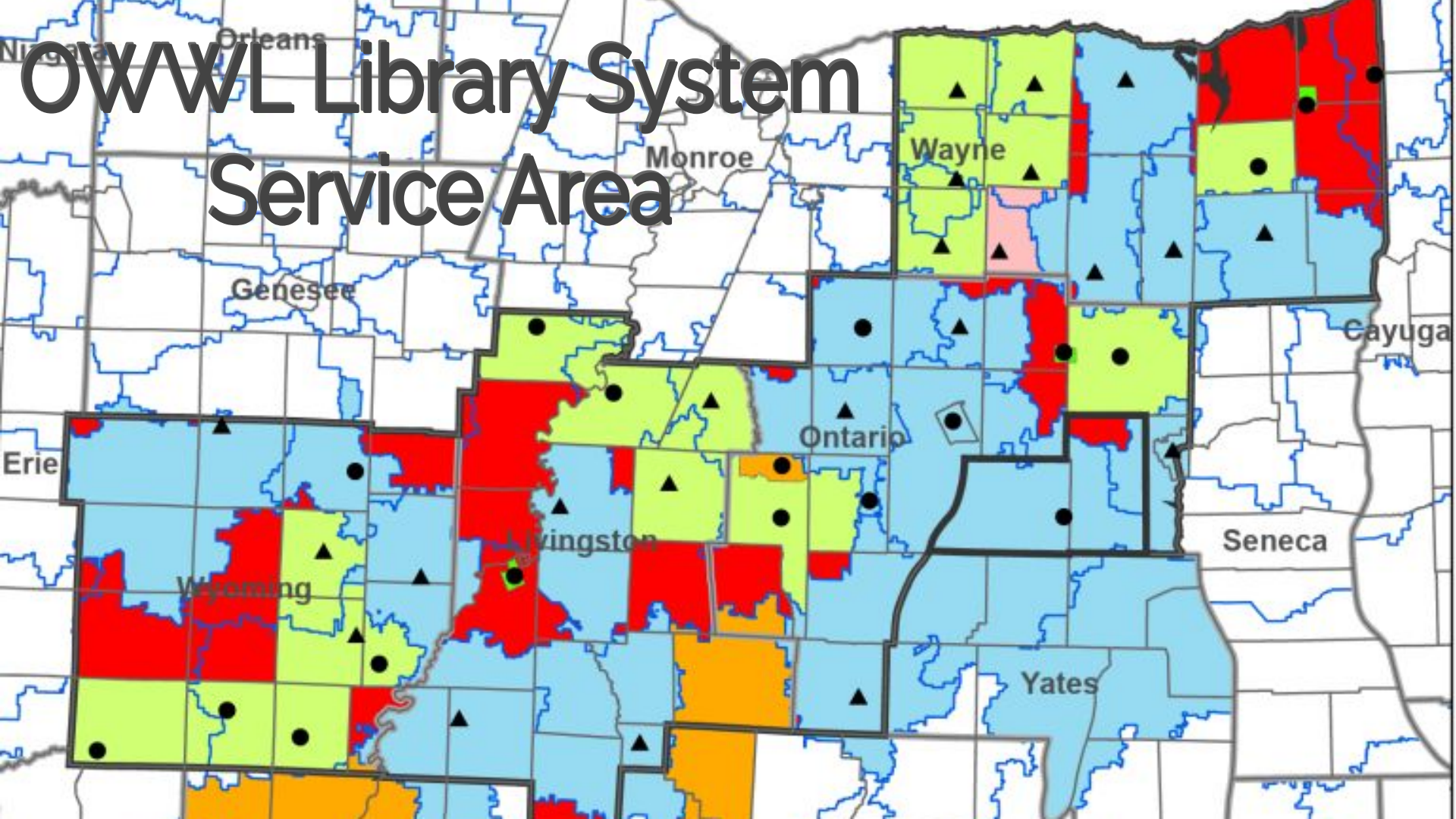
- Library Type?
- Library Funding?



## Why Discuss this Topic Now?

- Examining library funding is always a good idea – challenges are always on the horizon for libraries.
- Analysing, reviewing, and consolidating funding sources into a sustainable levy is a best practice for library boards.
- The recommendation for Library Districts is to receive 90% or more funding from a public referendum.
- Senate Bill S7857A: *Directs the commissioner of taxation and finance to study and to make recommendations regarding the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one library – A.K.A. a study on double taxation.*
- Addressing unserved areas can shed light on potential funding opportunities.

# OWWL Library System Service Area



# Definitions: \*Sustainable Funding Options

	414	259	School District	Special District
<b>Annual Vote</b>	Not automatically	Not automatically	Yes	Yes
<b>Trustees Elected</b>	Not required but recommended	Not required but recommended	Yes	Yes
<b>Process</b>	Petition each time an increase is needed <i>(signatures = 10% of the number of voters that voted in the last gubernatorial election)</i>	Petition each time an increase is needed <i>(signatures = 25)</i>	Petition + Vote + Charter Change  ■ Thereafter, annual vote	Legislation + Vote + Charter Change  ■ Thereafter, annual vote
<b>Boundaries</b>	Municipal	School District	School District	Municipalities (+Other)
<b>Vote Administration</b>	Board of Elections	School District or Library	School District or Library	Board of Elections or Library
<b>Bond for capital expenditures</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes

\*Diagram created by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich based on *Public Library District Toolkit - Libraries By Type*

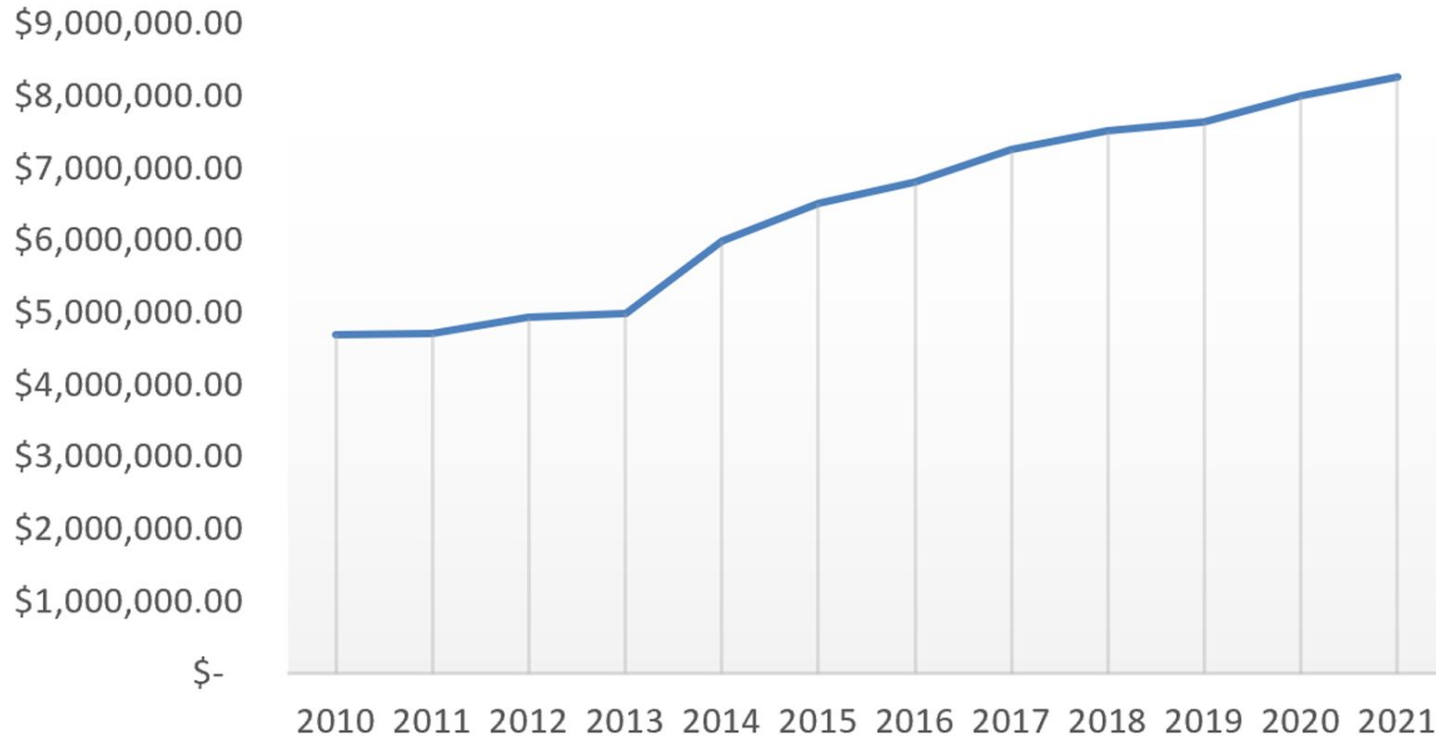
# Success Stories from the Field

Library	Dollar Amount Increase	Percent Increase	Year	Establishment Vote
Wellsville	\$ 232,399.00	134%	2012	
Pulteney	\$ 26,900.00	58%	2013	Yes - 414 - Association
Dundee	\$ 87,151.00	151%	2014	
Corning	\$ 765,000.00	53%	2014	Yes - 259 - Association
Cohocton	\$ 70,000.00	93%	2015	
Odessa	\$ 29,596.00	70%	2016	
Montour Falls	\$ 108,221.00	261%	2016	
Canisteo	\$ 29,705.00	50%	2016	
Alfred	\$ 50,000.00	111%	2017	
Almond	\$ 50,863.00	152%	2017	
Whitesville	\$ 18,972.00	69%	2017	
Belmont	\$ 17,000.00	52%	2017	
Angelica	\$ 19,000.00	61%	2017	
Prattsburgh	\$ 81,361.00	103%	2017	Yes - 259 - Association
Hornell	\$ 150,000.00	81%	2020	
Arkport	\$ 35,783.00	78%	2020	Yes - School District Public
Belfast	\$ 25,444.00	50%	2021	
Rushville	\$ 35,092.00	439%	2021	Yes - 259 - Municipal
Middlesex	\$ 30,445.00	305%	2021	Yes - 259 - Municipal

# Success Stories from the Field

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## Total Referendum Funding Across STLS





# Success Stories from the Field

## Annual Voter Approval on STLS Referendums







## **Pathways Forward: Special District or Consolidated District Public Library**

- New Governor equals new opportunities
- Reducing double taxed areas
- Serving the underserved or unserved
- Building service areas that make sense



## **Pathways Forward: School District or Joint School District Model**

- Case study of attempt in Southern Tier Library System - Arkport/Canaseraga
- One association library and one reading center explored joint model
- Library system spearheaded comprehensive study defining “new library”
- Boards met multiple times to consider and discuss
- Didn't move forward, but boards were open to it and understood value
- A new school district public library was created from reading center
- Groundwork for joint school district public library was established



## **\*Why it is important to think about how libraries are funded.**

Address Chronic Underfunding

Serving Unserved Areas

Shared Services

Publicly Elected Trustees

Tax Efficiencies

Future Proofing Funding and Governance

\*Importance of library funding developed by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Brian M. Hildreth based on *Public Library District Toolkit - Strategies for Sustainable Funding & Governance: An Introduction to the new Public Library District Toolkit from the New York State Library*

# Q&A

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*Thank You!*

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