

Four Messages Heard During Library Focus Group and Community Surveys

- 1. “I always enjoy coming to the library and looking for books of interest.”**
 - When asked to identify their main reason for coming to the Library, the majority of patrons said to borrow books and audiobooks.
 - The cost to purchase books has **increased** 13% since 2009.
 - Our materials budget has **decreased** 20% since 2009 and will **decrease** \$400 more if the tax levy vote is defeated.
- 2. The most common comments we received from respondents was that they “loved” the library and felt the staff are helpful and welcoming.**
 - Our staff add value to the Library. Our patrons rely on the knowledge of staff for everything from reading recommendations to technology assistance.
 - Our community relies on the Library for access to the Internet, Literacy Volunteers tutoring, and meeting space.
 - A no vote means the Library will cut open hours by 10%, reduce several staff positions, and cut essential patron support services like computer help hours.
- 3. “I loved it as a child and my children love the library as well.”**
 - The children’s area and events and services for children are the core of the Library.
 - Children in poverty may hear 30 million fewer words by their 4th birthday leading to a gap in vocabulary, reading, and test scores that is hard to overcome.
 - A vote to pass the tax levy means we can continue to provide just as many story times, school visits, the continuation of *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, and continue to put books in the hands of children and parents.
 - **A vote to reject the tax levy means fewer words for children to hear, fewer books for children to read, and less joy for everyone to experience in the children’s room.**
- 4. The Library is great but Newark wants to see even more from its library.**
 - Though 97% of community survey responders indicated they are satisfied with the library, they also repeatedly expressed a desire for **more** materials, **more** technology, **more** programming, **more** parking, **more** services, and **more** innovation.

**SAVE THE
DATE
LIBRARY VOTE
Tuesday, May 16
9:00 AM- 8:00 PM.
Newark High
School Gym**