

Hello,

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System is surveying library users and non-users to better understand the community's needs and priorities when it comes to funding and providing library services to the residents of Erie County. Your opinions will help us plan for the future of public library services. We value, appreciate and thank you for your input.

1. Do you have a Buffalo & Erie County Public Library card?

- Yes
- No (skip to question 3)
- Don't know

2. If you do have a library card, how frequently do you visit /or use Buffalo & Erie County Public Library services, including the website?

- At least once weekly
- At least once monthly
- Two or Three times a year
- Once a year or less
- Never
- Other: _____

3. How important is the public library to you?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Slightly important
- Not at all important

4. Currently, funding for the 37 libraries in Buffalo & Erie County is determined annually by Erie County government. Taxpayers have no voice in determining the amount of money provided to fund our local public libraries.

The library's budget can be compared to a roller coaster--but with more valleys than peaks. In 2005, drastic cuts resulted in closing 15 libraries across the county and slashing needed library programs and services. Funding cuts in the 2011 budget resulted in a loss of 5,100 open hours and further cuts to programs, services and materials at a time when people rely on us the most.

If given the opportunity would you prefer to have a direct say in the library's funding?

- Yes
- Possibly yes
- Possibly no
- No
- Not sure

5. **Currently, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 (full market value) pays less than a \$1 week (89.6 cents per week / \$46.61 annually) in taxes to support the library. Would you support paying....?**

10 cents a week more? (\$5.20 per year more)

25 cents a week more? (\$13 per year more)

50 cents a week more? (\$26 per year more)

Other: _____

6. **What is your zip code?** _____

7. **Are you 18 years of age or older?**

Yes

No

8. **Are you a registered voter in Erie County?**

Yes

No

If you would like to receive more information about library funding and free library services, please include your email address:

Thank you.

Please give the completed survey to Library Staff or mail to:

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Central Library - Development & Comm. Dept.
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, New York 14203