

# The Library's Funding Initiative



Johnstown  
Public Library

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

The Facts and Figures

# Our History

- Serving the community for over 115 years
- An original Carnegie Library
- Pact with Carnegie is the community's commitment to provide on-going funding
- Currently chartered as a municipal library
  - Financially—a department of the City
  - Governance—Trustees are appointed by City and are independently responsible for the Library's governance

# We're central to the community.



## OUR ACTIVITY FOR 2017

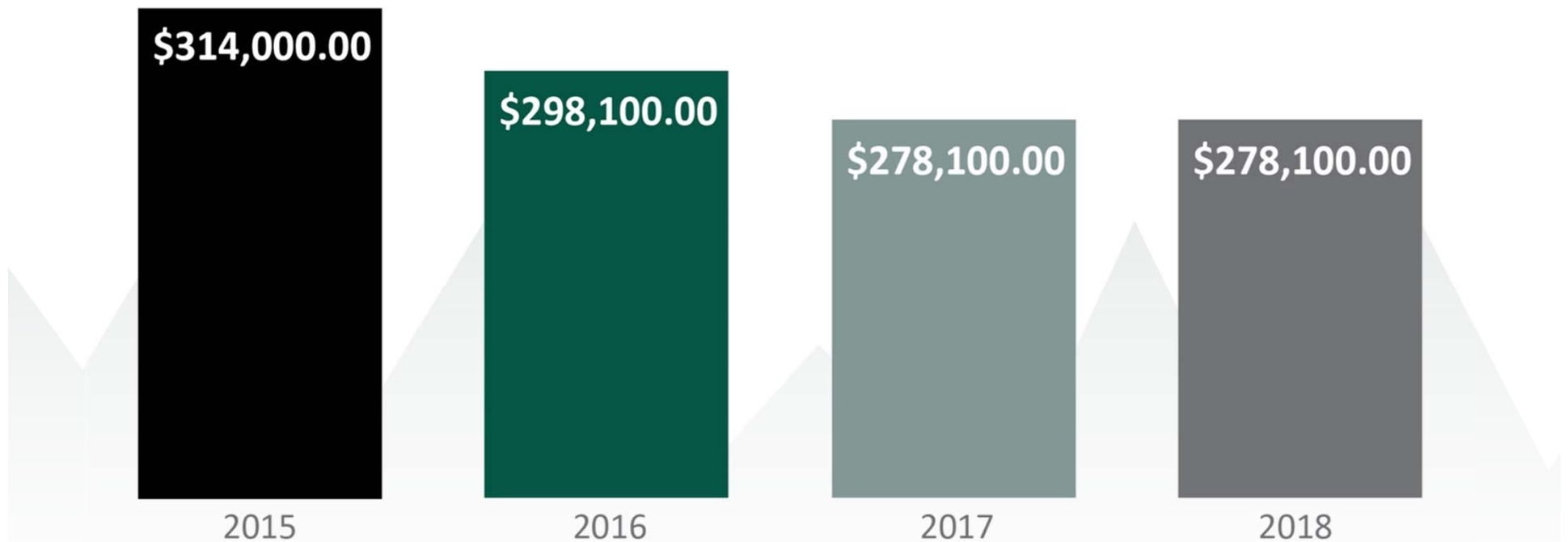


These numbers come from the Library's State Division of Library Development annual statistical report. The Return on Investment is derived from dividing the amount of City public funding into the total value of Library programs and services.

# Funding Has Been Stagnant



## Library Funding from the City of Johnstown



# Where the Library Stands

- The Library appreciates the support it gets from the City
- The City's finances have become strained under the state's tax cap and the Library can no longer operate and fulfill our promise to the community with unstable funding
- The Board of Trustees has decided to ask the voters of the school district to create a library district that shares the school district's boundaries
- Johnstown would become a school district public library

# What is a School District Public Library?

- A funding option for public libraries that allows the public to vote on the Library's budget as well as elect trustees
- There are over 150 school district public libraries in New York State
  - Locally: Gloversville and Northville
- Voters in the school district will vote whether or not to create the library district

# What a School District Public Library Isn't

- Not owned by the school district
- Does not replace public school libraries
- Library employees are not school district employees
- Library's budget is not part of the school district's budget
- Library does not take any of the school district funding

## Why Create a Library District?

- It will provide stable, sustainable community-based funding for the Library
- If approved, the Library will get the base amount it is asking for--\$396,528—until it puts a new annual budget before the voters
- The voters also get to elect trustees to represent them





# How the Funding Breaks Down

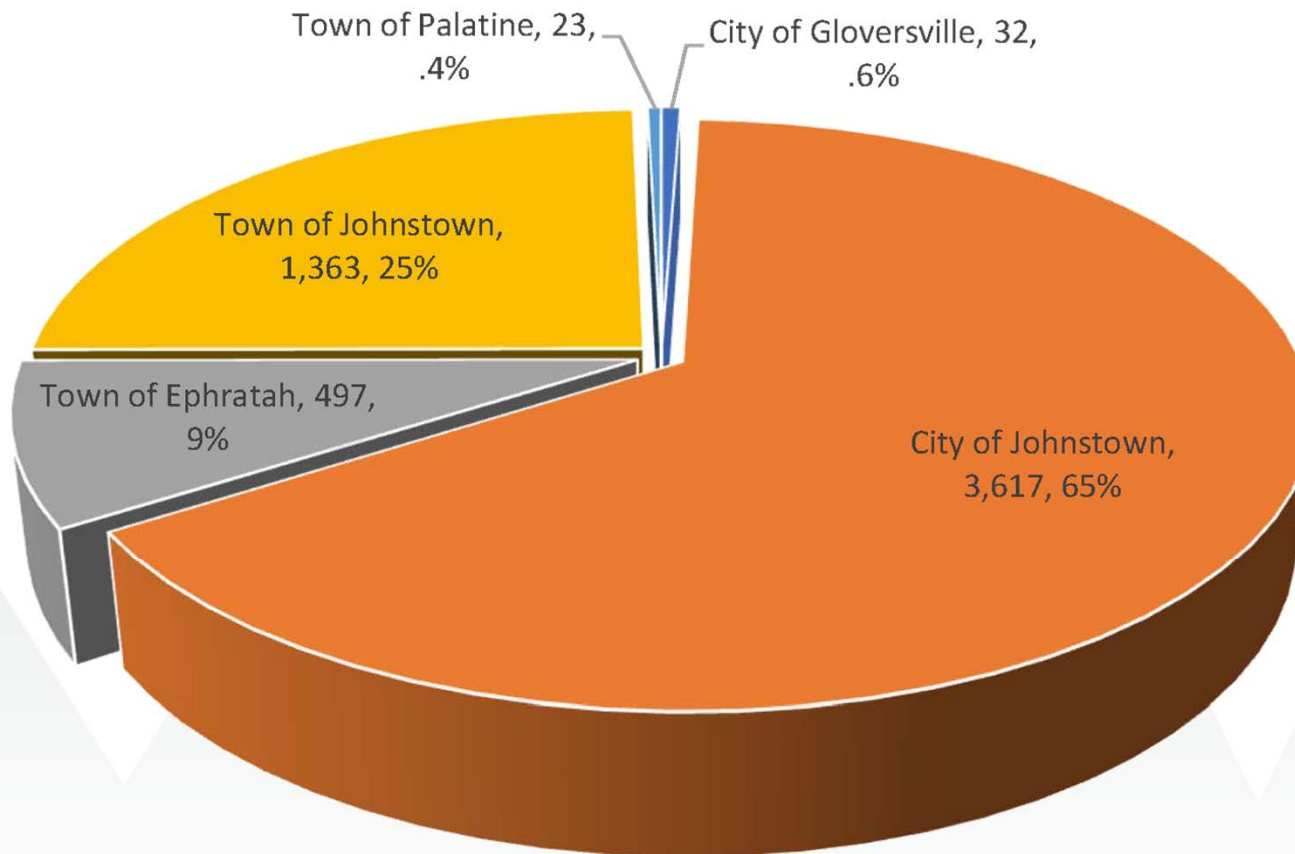
School District Community	Cost per \$1,000 of assessed value	Cost to a home assessed at \$75,000
City of Johnstown	70 cents per \$1,000	\$52.50
Town of Johnstown	\$1.00 per \$1,000	\$75.00
Town of Ephratah	95 cents per \$1,000	\$71.25
Town of Palatine	\$1.20 per \$1,000	\$90.00
City of Gloversville	70 cents per \$1,000	\$52.50

*Presently, City of Johnstown taxpayers pay 30 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value out of their City taxes to support the Library. Whether the City's taxes decrease by this amount depends on whether the Common Council votes to override the tax cap. If there is no override, city taxpayers, with a home assessed at \$75,000, would see a decrease of \$22.50 in their City taxes which would offset the Library's community-based funding.*

# How the Funding Breaks Down



Number of taxable parcels in School District

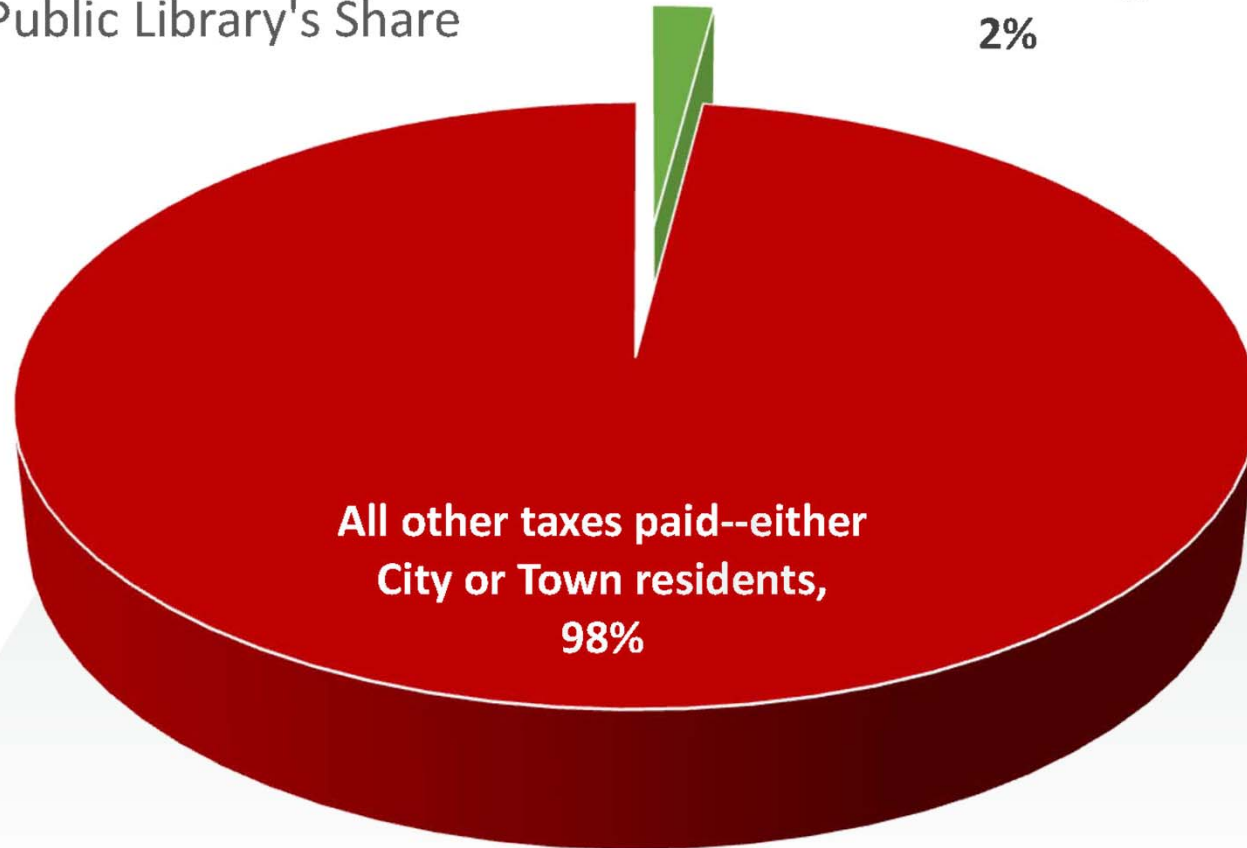


# How The Funding Breaks Down



Johnstown Public Library's Share

Library's  
Community-  
Based Funding.  
2%



# If the Library District Is Established

- Expand children's and family programming to accommodate a variety of schedules
- Create robust teen/tween services, including the exploration of a maker's space
- Offer more year-round adult programming



# If the Library District Is Established

- Broaden the Library's publicity and marketing to better reach the community
- Expand popular materials purchasing
- Expand the On My Way to Kindergarten program



# If the Library District Is Not Established

- Severely cut hours
- Deep cuts to new materials purchases
- Patrons will have to wait longer for trained staff to assist them
- Limit or completely cut all programming
- Ultimately, close the Library



## The Vote

- The vote will take place on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Library from 12 noon to 9 p.m.
  - The vote will be under the auspices of the school district
- Absentee ballots are available. Contact the school district clerk at (518) 762-4611 ext 119. for an application



## For More Information

- Go to [www.Johnstown.fundourlibraries.org](http://www.Johnstown.fundourlibraries.org)
- Call Library Director Erica Wing at (518) 762-8317, ext. 25