



Library District Referendum Plan - April 2009

Over the past three months, we've been asking Romeoville, Crest Hill and Lockport residents why many voted NO in November 2008. Here is what residents have told us:

- Many Romeoville residents were not aware that the library on Normantown Road will be closing in the near future and voting "no" on our referendum cannot stop that.
- Voters felt that the library district was trying to do too much at once by proposing to build three libraries all at one time.
- Lockport residents wanted their new library to stay downtown and were concerned that the proposed prototype building would be too large for any downtown site.
- Residents were concerned about the size of the tax impact.

The library board has listened to the input received from district residents, and is coming back with a modified package which will appear on the April 7, 2009 ballot. Here are the details of the revised plan:

- The three library projects would be implemented in stages to ease the tax burden. The Romeoville Library would be built first. Two years later the Crest Hill project would break ground. And two years after that, the Lockport project would commence. Thus the tax burden is spread out over more years, easing the impact.
- Romeoville would be the first community to get a new library, since residents in that community will be left without a library once the library on Normantown Road closes, and Lockport would be last to give the new downtown plan more time to develop.
- There will NOT be a limiting rate measure on the ballot, lowering the tax impact previously proposed by over 50%. The library board will evaluate modifying hours of operation and other actions to address operating shortfalls that may occur.
- Romeoville residents who were previously in the Fountaindale Library District would be paying a tax that is 57% less than what they paid last year - *and* have a new library!
- The new Lockport library would be built downtown as part of the City's downtown redevelopment plan, using a unique building design created specifically for downtown. If all else fails, this building plan is sized so it could be built on the library's existing site.

(Over...)

The Plan: Or What Do I Get For My Money?



The April ballot question will ask: *Shall the bonds of the Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Will County, Illinois, in the amount of \$42,060,000 be issued for the purpose of erecting three new buildings to be used as libraries, purchasing sites for erecting such buildings, furnishing necessary equipment for such buildings and acquiring library materials and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection with the construction of such buildings?*

- Romeoville and Crest Hill residents will be getting the new library pictured here. Lockport residents will get a different building designed uniquely to fit into the downtown area (and soon to be revealed in March 2009).
- These three construction projects will bring much needed work and commercial income to our area businesses.
- No matter where you live in this district of 75,000+ people, you will live near a brand new modern library.
- Your libraries will offer increased programming, including cultural events of a quality never before seen in Crest Hill, Lockport, or Romeoville.
- The new buildings will allow us to host after school programs that keep teens out of trouble and give them something productive to do.
- New library branches will raise our property values by making our communities more attractive places to live.
- The tax impact of this plan will be 50% less than what we were proposing in November.

For \$5.84 per month to the average district homeowner we can all make our homes more valuable and our lives much richer.