



Sylvia Luber, Chair
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October 12, 2017

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the Madison Public Library (Friends), a 501(c)3 organization, bring to your attention a referendum on the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act that will be on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The referendum's passage will authorize the state to provide a total of \$125 million to libraries for construction projects throughout the state. The program will be a 1:1 match of state and local dollars, providing a potential infusion of \$250 million throughout New Jersey.

Although the passage of the bond will add a small amount to New Jersey's current long-term debt, it is believed that the immediate economic benefits of the program far outweigh the small increase in debt service.

The Friends fully support this Act as its passage will provide funds for capital projects in our community libraries. With bond financing, public libraries such as ours will be able to:

- Make improvements to aged buildings, creating healthier environments for staff and patrons;
- Improve, expand and create community spaces;
- Update, and even add, technology for the education and enjoyment of our community members;
- Improve accessibility and add features to enhance the experiences of individuals with disabilities.

The bill earned bipartisan support and the signature of our governor. The final decision rests with the people. Our libraries build our communities. Now, it is our turn as community members to build our libraries.

I hope you will join the Friends of the Madison Public Library in voting YES on the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act on Nov. 7.

For the text of the bill: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/A0500/222_R1.pdf

Sylvia Luber, Chair

Friends of the Madison Public Library