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
   1 Lafayette Square
   Buffalo, New York 14203

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