

Why use bonds?



General obligation bonds are:

- the least expensive way to borrow money to invest in facilities and infrastructure.
- a way to get money immediately to finance projects over a long period of time, and at the lowest cost to the taxpayers.
- a fair and equitable way of sharing the costs as growth continues and citizens use the facilities over time.

For more information on the bond referenda, please contact Wake County Public Information at 856-7330.



www.WakeGov.com

PRINTED ON 80% RECYCLED PAPER

Wake County Bond Referendum for Public Libraries

337 South Salisbury Street, Wake County Office Building

PO Box 550

Raleigh, NC 27602



PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Wake County

Bond Referendum

OCTOBER 7, 2003



OCTOBER 7, 2003

Wake County Bond Referendum for Public Libraries

Wake County voters will be asked on October 7 to consider whether the County should issue general obligation bonds in the amount of:

- ✓ \$450 million for school construction
- ✓ \$35 million for public library facilities

Growth requires that we build these facilities; the question is how to pay for them.

No tax increase will be required for construction of these buildings.

For more information on the bond referenda, please contact Wake County Public Information at 856-7330.

WAKE COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Herb Council, Chair
Kenn Gardner, Vice Chair

Joe Bryan
Tony Gurley
Phil Jeffreys

Betty Lou Ward
Harold Webb

Why do we need more libraries?

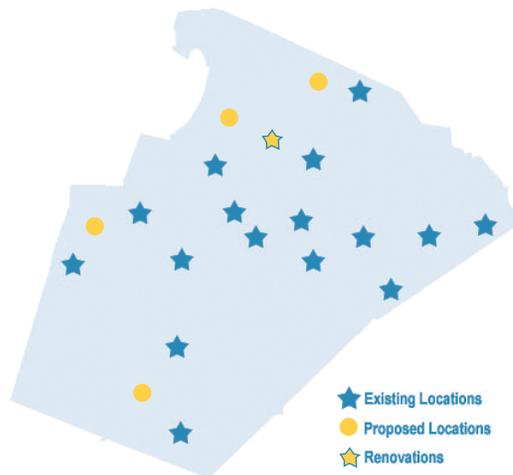
- 📖 The County is growing by more than 20,000 people per year.
- 📖 The Wake County Public Library System's two bookmobiles and 17 libraries are being stretched to their limits to deal with citizen demand in a County that has grown by 48 percent in 10 years.
- 📖 Wake's system is one of the most heavily used in the state, circulating more than 6.1 million books annually, providing more than 3,000 youth programs and 1,000 adult programs each year, and maintaining 600 computers for public use.
- 📖 Census and demographic data point to gaps in service in the County.



Wake County's Public Library System is an efficient and effective system. In 2001-02, Wake had a higher circulation and smaller budget per circulation (\$1.92) than Mecklenburg (\$4.07) and Guilford (\$4.12) counties (Source: N.C. State Library Statistical Report for Public Libraries for 2001-2002).

Where would new libraries be built?

In its master plan for 2003-2010, Wake County set criteria for



deciding the location of new libraries, including factors such as population growth and density, service gaps and partnership opportunities. If approved, the 2003 bond funds would be used for these facilities:

- 📖 A new West Regional Library in the Cary area
- 📖 A new Northeast Regional Library in the Wakefield area
- 📖 A new branch library in the Leesville area of Raleigh
- 📖 A new branch library in Holly Springs
- 📖 Expansion, renovation or relocation of North Regional Library.

Census and demographic data point to gaps in service in the county. Libraries are currently located in many areas of the county. New libraries would serve dense and growing populations. Because all people use the library, facilities are planned to meet the needs of all communities regardless of socioeconomic status.

Focus groups and verbal feedback from customers clearly indicate that public libraries and their services will continue to be used and add to the quality of life in the community. There is strong support for current services, with books and reading consistently mentioned as the most important.

Recommendations for new or expanded libraries were made based on all of these factors.

CITIZENS SURVEYED