

City of Lambertville
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2010-16

“Ordinance to Place a Public Question on the November 2, 2010 General Election regarding the Lambertville Free Public Library”

BE IT ORDAIN that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lambertville hereby approve the following municipal public question to be placed on the November 2, 2010 General Election ballot:

City of Lambertville
Municipal Public Question

“Shall the Free Public Library of the City of Lambertville be fiscally and administratively restructured and a Library Department be created within the Administrative Offices of the City of Lambertville?”

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

If the voters approve this question, it will:

1: Change the way the Library is currently funded. The Lambertville Free Public Library is funded under state statute N.J.S.A. 40:54-8, which mandates that the City of Lambertville pay to the Free Public Library an amount equal to one-third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property within the City, up to a maximum annual increase of 15%, regardless of the Library fiscal needs. In 2009, the statutorily mandated payment to the Free Public Library was \$264,174. By creating a Library Department within the City of Lambertville funding for the library would be determined by the Mayor and City Council through the normal budget process.

2: Allow the City to continue to fund services to residents. The \$264,174 funded in 2009 was inside the 2.5% budget CAP, which limits the City’s ability to raise taxes to fund non-library services.

3: Require the City’s library to join the Hunterdon County Library pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:33-1, providing access to the County’s Library system, which would be taxed separately.

The City’s intention is to restructure the Library to allow the City to continue to provide both library services and municipal services. As a City Department the library will be funded based on need not a state mandated payment.

First Reading and Introduction: June 21.2010, NO ACTION TAKEN.
Second Reading and Public Hearing: