

DONALD O'BRIEN:

I am currently a Manhasset Library Trustee and the Financial Officer of the Library Board. I am a long-time resident of Manhasset and a graduate of the St. Mary's Schools. My wife and I have lived here since we were married. Four generations have enjoyed the Manhasset Public Library. I hold a BS in Finance from LIU and an MBA in Corporate Finance from NYU Stern School of Business. Neither my opponents nor other members of the Library Board have a formal education or career in finance. I am a member of the NYS Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA). I have made a positive difference in the annual budgets and in controlling the costs related to the operation and staffing of the Library.

Since the inception of the New York State 2% tax cap, I have worked with the Library Board and Director to ensure that all annual budgets were below the tax cap, even during inflationary times. When interest rates were lower, I was instrumental in twice refinancing the \$17M bond issue that originally financed the 2005 construction of our Library. The total interest payments over the remaining term are reduced by \$1.6M.

While on the Library Board I have worked to reduce operating and administrative expenses. My background in financial real estate provided me with an in-depth knowledge of the operating costs of large properties. There has been a direct correlation between my experience and the operating costs of the Library. I have been involved in negotiation of the Library labor contracts and am knowledgeable of the County employee Civil Service system. This knowledge has helped to limit staffing and administrative costs to reasonable increases.

I recommended the establishment of the reserve fund which enabled the repurposing of the interior space on the first and second floors, recapturing staff space for our patrons. We continue to evaluate our programming and make changes to provide a broader range to serve all age groups. Our Library has truly become a Community Center where patrons enjoy gathering and participating in a variety of programs and educational experiences. The addition of a chef, homework assistance, and a game room are perfect examples of reaching out to more patron interests. Our librarians update our print and electronic collections monthly to remain current.

I will continue to listen and speak with residents regularly regarding the Library and to work to keep the Manhasset Public Library one of the best on Long Island. I ask for your vote at the Manhasset Public Library on Tuesday, April 8th.