

# CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

## A SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR LIBRARY SERVICE

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The purpose of these public meetings is to present the sustainability challenge facing the Cheltenham Township Library System to the public and to start a dialogue that will lead to a solution that continues to provide high-quality library service to the people of the Township.

### **BASICS:**

Township and State funding account for nearly 90% of revenues.

State-aid to public libraries has been reduced significantly over more than a decade.

Township funding has been relatively flat (occasional increases but no increases in three of the last six years).

Operational costs for benefits, facility maintenance, and other essentials have increased

A variety of different steps have been taken both to reduce costs and to increase revenues from non-tax sources; however, these have not been sufficient to bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures.

The Library System has reached “the tipping point” where taking action can no longer be delayed.

### **POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:**

The Cheltenham Township Library System either needs to raise the bridge or lower the water! The solution may be (and probably will be) a combination of both.

The choices that need to be made are hard ones. If there were simple solutions, they would have been enacted by now.

### **RAISE THE BRIDGE = INCREASE REVENUES**

- Increase Township Revenues
- Increase State Revenues
- Increase Fundraising
- Obtain Grants
- Undertake Long-Term Fund Development/Deferred Giving Program
- Pass a Dedicated Library Tax
- Other?

### **LOWER THE WATER = REDUCE EXPENDITURES**

- Close Libraries
- Reduce Service Hours
- Reduce Staffing Costs
- Reduce Spending for New Materials
- Reduce Spending for Other Operations
- Other?