FAQs

How will the redistribution of the LIT Expenditure Rate impact local Public Libraries?
It will directly impact library budgets by decreasing the support they receive from an important funding source. Libraries will lose 24% of their LIT revenue—a decrease of half a million dollars from the SJCPL budget. This unanticipated cut will begin in 2020 and continue every year thereafter.

How much money does SJCPL currently receive from LIT?
In 2020, the Library is projected to receive $2,098,000 from LIT. The proposed plan will cut funding by $504,148 in 2020.

What does the Library use LIT funds for?
LIT funds are part of the Library’s operating budget. The money is used to pay for utilities, building maintenance, staff salaries, and purchasing books and other collection materials.

Why is this change being proposed?
The St. Joseph County Public Safety Communications Consortium (PSAP) adopted a resolution to modify the LIT Expenditure Rate to create a stand-alone income tax rate for the PSAP.

For 5 years, the 911 Call Center has been funded by the combined resources of the County, City of South Bend, and City of Mishawaka. The funding agreement between these entities is ending. The new plan will not raise taxes but instead use funds previously allocated to other government units to fund the $8 million needed for the Call Center.
WRITE. CALL. ATTEND. SHARE YOUR STORY.

NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY?
FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE SCRIPT:

Hello, this is [name] and I live at [address]. I would like to speak with [Council Member’s name].

I am calling/writing about the proposed redistribution of the Local Income Tax Expenditure Rate. A plan being reviewed by the Council will result in a half a million dollar cut to the Public Library’s annual budget. I would like the Council to ensure that the Library does not lose this funding.

[Describe the impact that the Library has had on your life and your community. Mention which Library you use.]

Thank you.