

Voters to decide on new library

4-cent property tax increase to be on ballot

By Raymond Castile
Staff writer

Warren County voters in April will decide whether to approve a 4-cent increase in county property tax to fund the construction of a new county library.

The Warren County Commission on Jan. 25 approved placing the question on the April 6 ballot after being presented with a petition from the Warren County Library District, part of the Scenic Regional Library system.

The library district

needs \$600,000 to build a 7,500-square-foot library on about one acre of land that the district purchased in 1997. The lot is located on South Highway 47 in Warrenton. A sign announcing the proposed new library was erected on the property about a year ago.

Sallie Hancox, Scenic Regional Library director, said the 4-cent tax would be collected for 10 years.

The library district collected 975 signatures in support of the project, 941 of which were certified by Barb Daly, Warren County

Tax could fund new library

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clerk. A total of 431 signatures were required to place the issue on the ballot. That number represents at least five percent of the total votes cast for governor in Warren County in the 1996 general election.

Hancox said library supporters went door-to-door to collect the signatures from Jan. 6 through Jan. 14 of this year.

"When you consider what the weather was like during that period, the number of signatures collected speaks highly of the public's desire to see a new library," Hancox said.

Hancox said the public has wanted a new public library in Warren County for years. The current library is located

on South Market, in a building east of the Warren County Courthouse. The library district has rented the 1,800-square-foot space for 38 years, Hancox said.

The proposed new library, designed by LePique & Orne Architects of St. Charles, would be a single-story building with a 38-space parking lot. Hancox said the new library would have a 50-seat capacity meeting room. It would include more shelving space than the current library.

"The current library is jam-packed," Hancox said. "It's hard to get to the materials. The new library will have more space for our book collection. There will be better access to materials, including full disabled access. We'll have more terminals available for internet access."