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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pueblo library board of trustees vote to refer ballot measure

PUEBLO, Colo. — The Board of Trustees of the Pueblo City-County Library District unanimously took action at their meeting on Thursday night by a 7-0 vote to approve a Resolution to refer a measure for the November ballot.

The ballot measure will ask Pueblo County voters to continue property taxes for libraries at an amount slightly less than the current level. A 0.603 mill levy for local libraries authorized by voters in 1999 is scheduled to end this year in 2019 and the November ballot measure asks voters to reauthorize the library tax at 0.6 mills, which is a half percent decrease.

All of the funds collected will be used to continue to pay for local library programs, services and facilities. The cost of this mill levy is \$4.30 per year or 36 cents per month per \$100,000 in actual home value. So, the owner of a \$300,000 home will continue to pay about \$1.00 per month for local libraries.

Library Board President Doreen Martinez said, “Our community is proud of our libraries and the Board of Trustees believes the public funding for libraries needs to continue to keep our libraries strong.”

The Board of Trustees point out that Pueblo City-County Libraries are a source of great community pride being named America’s Best Library, a national Four Star Library, and recipient of the prestigious 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The Trustees also reference the vital role of local libraries as community gathering places dedicated to literacy and reading, lifelong learning, and free and open access to information.

Recent community surveys, community forums and meetings confirmed for the Board of Trustees that there is broad community support for local libraries,

including but not limited to, developing special programs for kids that help them read, learn to think and be entertained in a positive, productive way; ensuring our libraries continue to be a community gathering space, open to everyone at no charge, providing a place to go and read or use free internet service; adding even more of the newest best-selling and classic books and movies available for free to the public; providing increased services to the aging population; evolving with new technology such as offering e-books, movies, and audio books that can be downloaded for free on a smart phone or electronic reading device; refreshing and renovating our libraries to maintain them as comfortable spaces for reading, studying, and learning.

With the adoption of this Resolution referring the ballot measure, the Board of Trustees have formally requested the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners place the measure to continue the expiring library mill levy on the November 5, 2019, election ballot as part of the county-wide coordinated election. The Board of County Commissioners are expected to take this matter up right away.

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