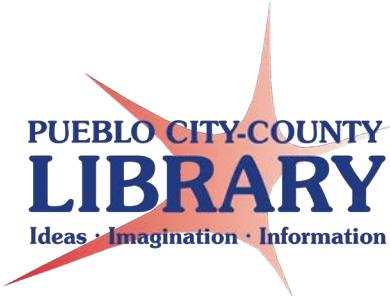


# OCTOBER 2019

*Press and Publicity Report*



# OPINION

## TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN

### Library ballot issue shouldn't be overlooked

With all of the tax increase initiatives facing us in November, it's essential that voters realize the working to library ballot issue 6B basically is a replacement for a modest bond measure amount we've been paying for 20 years (expiring this year), not a true increase as the opening legalese suggests. It's the one tax that actually gives you a return on investment if you utilize any of the extensive services and activities our Pueblo City-County Library District offers for every age group. It provides entertainment as well as useful classes, equipment and cultural enrichment for all who care to participate.

Let's keep our library strong and vote to maintain this extraordinary resource properly. It's a great asset for Pueblo as a superior library system is often a priority for prospective newcomers as well as an ongoing treasure for all of us who call Pueblo County home.

Vote yes on ballot issue 6B  
**Lynn Johnson, Pueblo**

# The Pueblo Chieftain

Pueblo City-County

Library District

Monday, October 7, 2019

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## County offers forums on ballot issue

By Anthony A. Mestas  
The Pueblo Chieftain

Voters have a chance to learn more about ballot measures 1A and 1B before the election next month.

Pueblo County is hosting two informational meetings about the two issues scheduled for today and Thursday.

Today's meeting is scheduled to be held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave.

The meeting Thursday is slated to run from 5-6:30 p.m. at Armor Storage, 517 E. Industrial Blvd. in Pueblo West.

Panelists include Garrison Ortiz, county commissioner; Carla Sykes, municipal judge; Marco Macaluso, Jail Base Behavioral Services coordinator; Jeff Teschner, warden of Pueblo County Jail; Emily Price, community organizer, and Jon Walker, executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District.

Ballot 1A would fund a jail and treatment center. It is slightly less than a .39-cent sales and use tax that would raise money for 30 years to pay for a new jail that would cost \$140 million.

Measure 1B is a restructuring of marijuana taxes that would provide about \$3.5 million annually. The measure would raise marijuana sales tax from

3.5% to 6%, which would align Pueblo County with other rates in the state. It would also keep the existing allocations to the scholarship program.

"The panel will be answering questions and presenting information on the jail issue as well as the marijuana issue," Ortiz said.

There are a slew of ballot issues before voters this year.

"People – and rightfully so – have a lot of questions regarding the ballot issues and I think that it's critically important that we allow a forum and a space to voice those questions and put experts in front of the public to best answer those questions," Ortiz said.

Officials say the Pueblo County jail is the most overcrowded jail in the state and could expect a drastic surge in inmates as a result of House Bill 19-1263 – a law changing the penalty for controlled substance violations. Ortiz said the county holds tremendous legal liability due to its inability to properly house inmates and provide a safe environment for deputies and jail staff.

Ortiz pointed out that jail overcrowding has prohibited the housing of municipal offenders for shoplifting, vandalism and other offenses. Small

See FORUMS, A5

## FORUMS

From Page A1

businesses and large retailers alike have been the unintended victims of the lack of capacity to

enforce municipal code.

The sales tax increase proposed by ballot issue 1A is the smallest it has ever been since a ballot issue regarding the jail has been run in 2015.

The jail would not be downtown. The remote site proposed for constructing a new jail will

ensure adequate space is permanently available for any jail expansion that may be needed in the years to come.

Pueblo County has one of the lowest marijuana retail sales tax rates in the state of Colorado. Most Colorado counties are already at 6%.

Ortiz said that bringing the current rate of 3.5% to 6% would allow the county to invest more money into scholarships and capital infrastructure needs. No existing allocations towards scholarships are being changed.

A community oversight

committee was recently established by the county to ensure that marijuana tax monies are being spent pursuant to the direction of the public through recent ballot issues.

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# The Pueblo Chieftain

Opinion

## Vote 'yes' on issue 6B

Posted Oct 8, 2019 at 4:28 PM

When is a tax increase not really a tax increase? Well, due to a quirk in state law, issue 6B on the November ballot provides an answer to that question.

The ballot language begins with a deceptive opening clause: "Shall Pueblo City-County Library District taxes be increased \$1,143,328 in 2020..." Which sounds really bad, right? We don't need more taxes.

But in reality, Pueblo County taxpayers wouldn't be paying any more than they have for the last two decades. The property tax rate that was put into place 20 years ago to support the library district is expiring this year. This ballot measure simply would continue that rate into the future.

The state's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights requires the ballot language to be worded the way it is, even though there's really no "new" tax involved. In fact, if you read a little further into the ballot question, you'll see that the so-called increase offsets the decrease that would result from the previous 20-year levy expiring.

Actually, the new rate would drop by a few fractions of a percentage point down to an even 0.6 mills. That translates into \$4.30 per year for every \$100,000 of a home's value. That's less than the cost of one pumpkin spice latte, for those of you who are into that sort of thing.

So what does that small amount of money buy? Only one of the very best library systems in the country.

The library district has been recognized not once but twice within the last couple of years for national honors. The first time was during an online poll that demonstrated the enthusiasm and loyalty people here feel about their local libraries. The second time was by an institution that's widely respected within the community of library and museum administrators.

The district's libraries fulfill their traditional role of being places where people can check out books. On average, about 8,000 books or other materials are checked out there every day.

But the libraries provide so much more than that. They provide links to the internet for people who might not have access to computers at home. On average, visitors access the libraries' computers and digital services about 3,500 times per day.

The library system also sponsors various cultural and educational programs, which are attended by about 900 people per day.

These are all significant numbers in a community of our size.

So what would happen if the ballot issue fails? The system couldn't absorb that kind of financial hit without making cutbacks to the services it offers. Library hours would be reduced. Some employees would be let go. There's even a possibility one or more branch libraries would have to be closed for good.

We don't want to go down that road as a community. Pueblo often takes its share of criticism for its flaws, real or perceived. But our library system has a well-earned reputation as being among the nation's best. Let's keep it that way.

Of all the issues on the November ballot, this one is a no brainer. Please vote 'yes' on ballot issue 6B.

# The Sunday Chieftain

Sunday, October 13, 2019

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## Polis taps Pueblo for input

**Governor kicks off series of community forums focusing on economy, public health**

By James Bartolo  
The Pueblo Chieftain

Eight state department representatives joined Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and is launching his statewide series of listening session, with his first at the Rawlings Public Library in

Pueblo on Saturday.

"Just as I kicked off my campaign here, we also wanted to kick off our listening tour in Pueblo as well," he said.

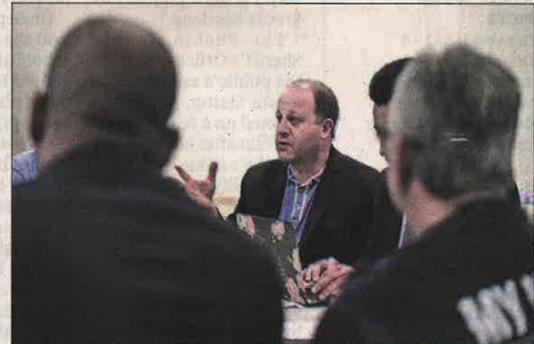
Guests were invited to present ideas to improve the area at eight discussion tables representing major issues: health care, criminal justice, agriculture, labor, mental health, economic development, housing and education.

"It was great to get a sense in

each area of how the state can be a better partner for Pueblo in creating jobs, reducing health care costs, improving our schools and really getting that feedback from people who work in these different areas in our community is really helpful for us," Polis said.

Representatives included Insurance Commissioner Mike Conway, Tom Massey of Health

See POLIS, A6



Gov. Jared Polis chose the Rawlings library in Pueblo as his first stop in a statewide listening tour Saturday. [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/ZACHARY ALLEN]

## POLIS

From Page A1

Care Policy and Financing, Prisons Director Travis Irani, Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenburg, Labor and Employment Executive Director Joe Barela, Human Services Executive Director Michelle Barnes, Natricee Bryant of Local Affairs, and Education Chief of Staff Ben Boggs.

Pueblo community leaders

had the opportunity to participate in three of the discussion tables before department representatives presented key points in the discussions to the entire room.

At each table, community leaders were asked what they would want Pueblo to be known for if it was on the cover of Time Magazine in 2030; what Pueblo needed to improve; and what Pueblo is already doing well.

"It's really making sure that our cabinet members that were here continue to operationalize and learn from everything

we heard from here today to make sure that we're helping Pueblo achieve the goals that we share," Polis said.

Much of the agriculture discussion was centered around the Colorado State Fair. Greenburg said Pueblo's visionaries want to work on advancing renewable energy technology at the State Fair while continuing to showcase local agriculture. Challenges discussed also included funding and capital improvements for the longtime festival.

Discussions on housing,

labor, economic development and education addressed the challenges of making it affordable for young workers to stay in the area once they graduate.

"I think the Time Magazine cover would be 'Pueblo keeps young skilled in place,'" Barela, leader of the discussion on labor said. "We're able to train, educate and keep workers with the industries we have in Pueblo."

Mental Health and Criminal Justice discussions addressed expansion of mental health services and the need for

substance abuse treatment programs in the midst of a opioid crisis. Despite the challenges at hand, Barnes, leader of the mental health and substance abuse discussion, community pride is one of Pueblo's strengths.

"You guys are proud — that kept coming out," Barnes said. "Everything comes to community pride and porting each other, so I'm impressed."

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## TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN

October 13, 2019 | Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO)  
Page: B3 | Section: CO Opinion  
931 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1110, grade level(s): 9 10 11-12



Let's keep momentum going by supporting our libraries

Voting "yes" on ballot issue 6B will not increase your taxes, but will sustain our incredible library system. Libraries are places where dreams meet possibility, and our local branches are a testament to that boundless connection. Our library district has been recognized as the No. 1 library district in the nation. Our libraries are that impressively efficient, yet innovative to have earned Pueblo that great honor.

The library district's bond issue for various new projects originally was passed in 1999. That bond sunsets this year. What have we created since 1999?

- Renovated and expanded the main branch, Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library
- Built new branches on the St. Charles Mesa, the East Side and in the Greenhorn Valley
- Renovated and expanded the Pueblo West Library
- Remodeled the Lamb and Barkman branches

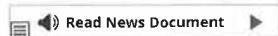
Our libraries are interactive learning and enrichment centers. They're gathering places for community training and meetings. This means access to things like the internet for people seeking jobs or the nonprofit center at the Rawlings branch, where our invaluable charities can access free tools for their organizations. Libraries also are where you can rent videos or research your genealogy.

We have a crown with several gems in Pueblo — and that's the Pueblo City/County Library District. Let's call this what it is: A win-win situation for everyone. I implore you to vote "yes" on issue 6B. And the best part is, no new taxes.

Ken West, Pueblo

## TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN

October 15, 2019 | Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO)  
Page: A4 | Section: CO Opinion  
498 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1320, grade level(s): >12



Support local bond issues for schools and libraries

I strongly encourage Pueblo citizens to vote for Pueblo libraries and Pueblo School District 60 bond issues on the November election ballot. Libraries, because they are the enduring free opportunities for self education and for opening unimaginable horizons, at relatively no cost to consumers.

The schools all have been overlooked long too for the kind of investment required to correct years of neglecting building upgrades and providing supportive costs. The school board has done its part by presenting the public with excellent options and now the public must do its part. The cost undoubtedly will be greater if we don't pass the education bond issue — including closing schools throughout the city. Schools provide the livelihood for our children at all levels of skill.

In the case of the jail bond issue, there remains so much more work to ensure human conditions for rehabilitation. Any jail should be put outside of the Pueblo metro area, for starters, and seeking to restore the existing jail is a costly nonstarter.

The library and D60 bond issues have surfaced more than once and now it is time to step up and pay for these needed human services for our own citizens. We must support our children to prepare them for the next level of education and support our libraries so they do not become outdated and could even close.

Alvin Rivera, Pueblo

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE AS TO PROPOSED BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees for the ensuing year of 2020, and a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the District at 100 E. Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado, where same is open for public inspection. The proposed budget is available on the website of Pueblo City-County Library: [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org).

A public hearing on such proposed budget will be held Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., during the regular meeting of the Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, Colorado 81004.

Any interested elector within such Pueblo City-County Library District will be given the opportunity at the hearing to be heard concerning the proposed budget and may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget, scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 5:30 p.m., at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, Colorado 81004.

Sherri L. Baca  
Chief Financial Officer  
Pueblo City-County Library District

PL0000157366-01

## Don't let government break its promises

October 18, 2019 | Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO)  
Page: A4 | Section: CO Opinion  
382 Words | Readability: Lexile: 870, grade level(s): 5 6



### Don't let government break its promises

Twenty years ago, the library district asked for a tax increase to last 20 years and end. The 20 years are up and it's time for the taxpayers to get some of the money back.

No so fast, says the library district. Officials there want to keep the money, which is another broken promise. Vote "no" on ballot issue 6B.

The state asked five years ago to keep the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights money. That was Proposition C. Now the state has come up with Proposition CC, which would allow the state to keep the money forever. Another broken promise. If Prop CC passes, it will kill TABOR forever. Folks, it is your money. Vote "no" on CC.

It is time politicians started keeping their promises, and time we started making them.

Jim O'Donnell, Pueblo

## DIVERSIONS

### Pecha Kucha Night Vol. 27

Eight presenters will appear at Pecha Kucha Night Vol. 27 at 7 p.m. today in the InfoZone Theater of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

Paul Bizzell, Kelly Jackson, Corinne Koehler, Ruth Nerenberg, Patricia O'Brien, Thad Stelter, Stnaley Clark and Janet Wilson will speak.

There will be complimentary appetizers and refreshments provided.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 553-0220.

# LIFE

## Halloween at Pueblo's libraries

The Pueblo City-County Library District will host several Halloween events.

The Lamb Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd., will host a Halloween Family Party at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 30. The event is for all ages and will feature snacks, crafts and games. Costumes are encouraged.

The Barkman Library, 1300 Jerry Murphy Road, will host Halloween Toddler Storytime at 10:30 a.m. on Halloween.

The event is for children 15-months-old to 3-years-old and their parents or caregivers. Storytime focuses on single books, action rhymes and songs that help develop early literacy, language skills and social skills. Costumes are welcome.

The Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., will host a Halloween Storytime Party at 10:30 a.m. on Halloween. The event is on

the first floor in Youth Services.

The party is for children 0-5 who can wear costumes for a special, not-so-scary Halloween storytime with crafts and games.

The Rawlings Library will also host a Halloween Carnival from 4 to 6 p.m. on Halloween on the first floor in Youth Services.

Children ages 8 to 12 can participate in various Halloween activities.

For more information on the events, call 562-5600 or visit [pueblolibrary.org](http://pueblolibrary.org).

# OPINIONS

## Ballot issue 6B will keep our libraries strong



Doreen Martinez

It has been my pleasure to serve the Pueblo City County Library District in multiple capacities over the last several years. I volunteer my time to our library district for innumerable reasons. Mainly, I dedicate my time and effort because I strongly believe the library is the single institution in our community that

has the capability to positively impact the life of each Puebloan with a single visit.

The number of "library stories" I could tell about how the lives of my family or our community have been positively impacted by our library are too many to count. I know that I am not the only Puebloan with this type of positive library experience. As Puebloans, we all benefit somehow from what the PCCLD has to offer our community.

Two statistics illustrate this well. More than 1.3 million people visited local libraries to check out approximately 2.4 million

books and other materials in 2018 alone. Since 2003, the number of library users has doubled and utilization of books and materials is up 140 percent. Keep in mind that Pueblo County's population grew only about 13 percent during the same period.

Our libraries are busier than ever. Local citizens are proud that we are home to the "Best Library in America," according to a nationwide vote last year. The PCCLD also is a national "four-star library" and was selected for the 2018 National Medal for Library Services, which is perhaps the single most prestigious

award that a library can receive.

Success like this largely is due to strong community engagement. Our librarians work tirelessly to provide special programs to help children read, think and be entertained in a positive and productive way. They strive to ensure increasing services for our aging population, too. The libraries provide convenient free and open gathering places to read, access the internet and interact with friends.

Our libraries are well-maintained, inviting, comfortable spaces for studying and learning. They

offer bestsellers, classics and movies free for all to use, and ensure public availability of new technology like e-books, audio books and complimentary downloads.

Our libraries may not do it all, but they do a lot. Especially in support of lifelong learning. The PCCLD is at a crossroad. A mill levy dedicated to local libraries will expire on Dec. 31. If this happens, the funds available will not be sufficient to sustain current programs, services and facilities.

Financial analysis shows this mill levy must continue

See MARTINEZ, B4

## MARTINEZ

From Page B1

in order to sustain our libraries.

The cost to homeowners is \$4.29 per year (less than 36¢ per month) for every \$100,000 of actual home value. This library mill levy has been in place since 1999 and it is scheduled to sunset this year in 2019.

The issue facing our libraries was vetted thoroughly with local leaders — including elected officials and representatives from businesses, educational

institutions and non-profit organizations. A series of public forums and presentations about the issue occurred at various locations throughout the county in recent months. Scientific polls of likely voters have been completed. The overwhelming sentiment in all cases is to continue this modest mill levy for our libraries.

With this information in hand and speaking with one voice, the library board of trustees recently adopted a resolution to ask voters to continue the library mill levy. The ballot question is now set for the upcoming Nov. 5

Pueblo County general election. The library measure will appear on the ballot as question 6B. Resolutions supporting the library question have been unanimously adopted by both the Pueblo County Commission and the Pueblo City Council.

The language used to write question 6B is dictated by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. It mandates the question is written in legalese that can be difficult to understand. The question reads in part: "Shall Pueblo City-County Library taxes be increased \$1,143,328 in 2020 ... which rate offsets a decrease in taxes

effective January 1, 2020?"

This required wording almost sounds like a tax increase, when it isn't. More simply stated, the question asks: "Shall the current library mill levy continue?"

I am confident our citizens will support our popular and award-winning libraries by voting "yes" on question 6B on Nov. 5. "Yes" on question 6B ensures our same great libraries with no new taxes.

Doreen Martinez is the president of the Pueblo City-County Library District board of trustees.

# OPINION

voting "yes" on measure 4B.

**Bill Bolt, Pueblo**

## **Jail funding opponents present a false choice**

The Oct. 17 front page article about various issues on the ballot was very confusing. The newly formed coalition of jail construction opponents seem to be telling us we only can vote for jail construction or education — that the two are mutually exclusive. Not true. One vote does not cancel out the other. Actually, any citizen with the health and welfare of our county at heart should vote "yes" on the school issue, the jail issue, the library issue and the fire station issue.

The attempt to pit one issue against another is

mean-spirited and misguided.

**Emily Price, Pueblo West**

# OPINION

## TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN

### Ballot language is confusing on library funding issue

I recently saw the official language on the Nov. 5 ballot concerning ballot issue 6B for the Pueblo City-County Library District proposal to continue its existing 0.6 mill levy for library purposes. Wait until you see it. It looks like it's written in a language unknown to man. It is mind numbing. It's worse than trying to read the internal revenue code. Whatever happened to plain English?

It starts out by asking: "Shall Pueblo City-County Library District taxes be increased \$1,143,328 in

2020," then skips eight lines to add, "which rate offsets a decrease in taxes effective January 1, 2020." It must have been written by a lawyer.

In plain English, 6B simply reauthorizes the 0.6 mill we're currently paying for the libraries. Apparently, by law the ballot measure must say it's a tax increase. But 6B is just continuing the existing 0.6 mill tax we're already paying. Your Pueblo proud library is not asking for a tax increase, only to maintain the status quo.

Voting "yes" on 6B means no new taxes. With

Pueblo pride, let's keep our remarkable library system strong and viable. I hope you agree on Election Day.

**Robert Ogburn, Pueblo West**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Over 6,000 ballots turned in so far

### Election Day is less than 2 weeks away

By Ryan Severance  
The Pueblo Chieftain

With just under two weeks to go before Election Day, there have been over 6,000 ballots returned in Pueblo County.

According to numbers released by the Pueblo County Clerk and Recorder's office Wednesday, voters have returned 6,876 ballots in Pueblo

County. And as of Wednesday, there have been 102,801 ballots sent out here, Gilbert "Bo" Ortiz, the Pueblo County clerk and recorder, said.

Of those ballots, 6,745 have been accepted.

Ortiz has said that there's always a rush of ballots turned in when they first go out, then things plateau before picking back up about four days from Election Day, which this year is Nov. 5.

According to data from the Colorado Secretary of State's

office, registered Democrats have accounted for close to 2,700 of the ballots that have been turned in, while Republicans have sent in about 1,950 and unaffiliated voters have accounted for about 1,500. Other political parties make up the rest.

Across the state there have been 241,287 ballots that have been turned in so far, according to the data from the secretary of state's office.

Puebloans are voting for

candidates in a number of different offices this year, as well as some important tax measures.

There are three different City Council seats up for grabs along with two six-year terms on the Pueblo Board of Water Works and a two-year term on the water works board. There also are six candidates vying for three Pueblo School District 60 board seats.

Voters also will decide on a tax hike in the form of a \$218

million bond to build two new high schools and make needed improvements and upgrades at 11 elementary and middle schools in D60; a slightly less than .39-cent sales and use tax that would raise money for 30 years to pay for a new jail; and the continuation of a mill levy at a slight decrease for the Pueblo City-County Library District to continue library services uninterrupted.

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LISTEN LIVE

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## 2019 Is A Big Election Year For Colorado Public Libraries

 By Stephanie Wolf | October 24, 2019

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*Nathaniel Minor/CPR News*

*Brett Normandin of Denver peruses the audio book section of the Denver Central Library on Thursday, May 25, 2017.*

From mill levy increases to sales tax hikes, a number of Colorado counties and cities will have measures on November's ballot connected to funding for public library service.

The Colorado State Library is aware of 11 initiatives.



LISTEN LIVE

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LIBRARIAN NICOLE DAVIES SAID.

### Even With Dramatic Budget Cuts, It's Not So Easy To Close An Entire Public Library System In Colorado

Libraries and library systems going to the ballot this year include:

- Delta County Public Library District: [Ballot Issue 7A](#)
- Eagle Valley Library District: [Ballot Issue 6A](#)
- Garfield County Public Library District: [Ballot Issue 6A](#)
- Gunnison County Library District: [Ballot Issue 6A](#)
- Loveland Public Library: [Ballot Issue 2A](#). A sales tax increase for community improvement projects, including building a new library facility.
- Manitou Springs Library: [Ballot Issue 2D](#). A sales tax that would fund arts, culture and community projects, including the Carnegie library building. This is a branch of Pikes Peak Library District
- Pine River Library District: [Ballot Issue 6A](#)
- Pueblo City-County Library District: [Ballot Issue 6B](#)
- Rangeview Library District (Anythink Libraries/Adams County): Ballot Issue 6A
- San Miguel County Public Library District #1 (Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride): [Ballot Issue 6A](#)
- Southwest La Plata Library District: [Ballot Issue 6D](#). A mill levy increase to fund newly formed library district south of Durango

Colorado actually has a law on the books that [protects public library service](#). The legislation [specifies certain requirements](#) when it comes to responsibilities, management, access and services. Those include being open to the public no less than 20 hours a week and having paid staff working during those hours.

# OPINION

## TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAN

### Ballot issues aren't broken promises

I must take exception to a letter in a recent Friday's Tell It to The Chieftain section regarding the Pueblo library district ballot issue 6B and Proposition CC. I fail to see how either of these are broken promises, as claimed by the writer. First of all, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights amendment was not instituted by our Legislature (the

politicians); it was a citizens initiative. So how could the politicians break a promise they never made?

Second, the library issue to continue a .06 mill property tax, which expires this year, and by the way costs the average homeowner less than \$7.50 per year, is being presented to the voters for approval.

So how can you break a promise if you ask the people you made the promise to if it is okay? I feel sorry that the writer can't afford to give up a little more than two cups of coffee a year at Starbucks to keep our library district the best it can be, which is one of the very best in our country.

Jim Stuart, Pueblo

# OPINIONS

OPINIONS

## *Our library system is a community treasure*



Jane Rawlings

The Pueblo City-County Library District and its 12 library locations

serve as a beacon of hope for the citizens of Pueblo County. There is no other institution that exemplifies "community" more than the library. Where else can people go to access knowledge, entertainment, the world wide web and an eclectic array of programs and workshops for people of all ages and backgrounds, free of charge?

We are indeed fortunate to live in a community that can boast having the Best Library in America, the Library of the Year and the National Medal Library Service Award, accolades all received in 2018 alone. In order to maintain this standard of excellence and access for all to enjoy, the citizens of Pueblo County should vote "yes" on 6B, the library's

ballot issue that simply will continue a mill levy that has been in existence for the past 20 years, which certainly a big part of why we enjoy the best library in the country!

The best news about voting "yes" on 6B is that you won't see an increase in your taxes from this initiative, but you will see the outstanding services that the library has

provided for years to come. The continuation of this mill levy means more books, access to technology, quality programs and facilities that are well-maintained. Did I mention more books?

While I am an old-school book lover, today's libraries, and our library in particular,

See RAWLINGS, B4

## RAWLINGS

From Page B1

serve as cultural community centers of knowledge that expand well beyond books. Library computers and digital services are used an incredible 3,500 times a day by young and old alike, some of whom may not have the means to afford a home computer.

In addition to the books and technology, approximately 900 people engage in library-sponsored cultural and education programs each day. To provide another example of how our library goes beyond the books, when Pueblo School District 60 announced its move to a four-day school week, the library mobilized its resources along with other community partners to offer a safe haven of sorts for students who may not have a place to go on Fridays by providing an array of education offerings that included snacks and food. This is just one illustration of how our library district leadership and staff has gone above and beyond to serve the needs of the community far beyond the

traditional role of a library.

My father, Bob Rawlings, saw the immense treasure of our library district and was passionate about helping his community and loyal subscribers of The Pueblo Chieftain become more educated and more self sufficient. He believed in the power of literacy and how it could help people change their lives for the better. It is for this reason that he gave a significant personal contribution to the construction of the main branch which bears his name several years ago.

I know he would be immensely proud to see just how big of a treasure our library has turned out to be.

A beacon of hope. A treasure. A shining light in our community. These are all very deserving descriptions of the gem we know as the Pueblo City-County Library District. For no increase in taxes, Pueblo County residents will continue to be enriched and educated for generations to come. Please vote "yes" on 6B.

*Jane Rawlings is the president of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation. She is the former publisher of The Pueblo Chieftain.*

# OPINION

## Chieftain ballot recommendations

Here's a recap of The Pueblo Chieftain editorial board's recommendations for the elections and ballot issues to be decided in the Nov. 5 election:

Pueblo City Council, at-large seat: **Lindsay Reeves**

Pueblo City Council, District 2 seat: **Larry Atencio**

Pueblo City Council, District 4 seat: **Ray Aguilera**

Pueblo School District 60 board of education (three at-large seats): **Thomas Farrell, Jackie Seybold, Margaret Wright**

Pueblo Board of Water Works, six-year term (two seats): **Michael Cafasso, Chris Woodka**

Pueblo Board of Water Works, two-year term (one seat): **Sam Krage**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 1A (to raise sales tax rate to fund a new jail): **Yes**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 1B (to raise marijuana sales tax to fund special projects): **Yes**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 4A (to issue bonds to pay for \$218 million in city school construction and repairs): **Yes**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 4B (to issue \$60 million in bonds for county school improvements and repairs): **Yes**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 6A (to levy a sales tax for Pueblo West fire protection): **Yes**

Pueblo County Ballot Issue 6B (to continue property tax collection for library operations): **Yes**

Colorado Proposition CC (to allow state to spend excess revenue collected on education and transportation): **Yes**

Colorado Proposition DD (to legalize sports betting and use tax revenues collected for water conservation projects): **Yes**

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. Ninth House - Leigh Bardugo\*
2. Quantum - Patricia Cornwell
3. A Bitter Feast - Deborah Crombie\*
4. What Happens in Paradise - Elin Hilderbrand\*
5. Full Throttle: Stories - Joe Hill\*
6. The Giver of Stars - Jojo Moyes\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. Idiot: Life Stories from

the Creator of Help Helen Smash - Laura Clery\*

2. The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11 - Garrett M. Graff\*
3. She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement - Jodi Kantor\*
4. Know My Name: A Memoir - Chanel Miller\*
5. Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal - Renia Spiegel\*
6. Hate Inc.: Why Today's Media Makes Us Despise One Another - Matt Taibbi

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. The Christmas Boutique: An Elm Creek Quilts Novel - Jennifer Chiaverini\*
2. A Book of Bones - John Connolly\*
3. The Guardians - John Grisham\*
4. Boundless: A Drizzt Novel - R. A. Salvatore\*
5. Child's Play - Danielle Steel\*
6. Stealth - Stuart Woods\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. The Less People Know About Us: A Mystery of Betrayal, Family Secrets, and Stolen Identity - Axtion Betz-Hamilton\*

2. How Charts Lie: Getting Smarter About Visual Information - Alberto Cairo\*

3. Welcoming the Unwelcome: Wholehearted Living in a Broken Hearted World - Pema Chodron\*
4. The Contender: The Story of Marlon Brando - William J. Mann\*
5. The Way I Heard It - Mike Rowe\*
6. Sailing True North: Ten Admirals and the Voyage of Character - Admiral James Stavridis\*

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. The Night Fire - Michael Connelly\*
2. The Deserter - Nelson DeMille\*
3. Agent Running in the Field - John Le Carré\*
4. Clika's Journey - Heather Morris\*
5. Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts - Kate Racculia\*
6. Olive, Again - Elizabeth Strout\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. Home Work: A Memoir of

My Hollywood Years - Julie Andrews\*

2. The Hidden World of the Fox - Adele Brand\*
3. The Body: A Guide for Occupants - Bill Bryson\*
4. Janis: Her Life and Music - Holly George-Warren\*
5. Me: Elton John Official Biography - Elton John\*
6. Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For - Susan Rice\*

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