

Pueblo Library Board of Trustees vote to refer a measure to November ballot

PUEBLO, Colo. — The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) Board of Trustees voted unanimously 7-0, to refer a measure to the November 3 ballot. The measure asks Pueblo County voters to lift a state-imposed 5.25 percent property tax revenue limit without increasing the district's current voter-approved mill levy rate. The Pueblo County Board of County Commissioners referred the measure to the November 3 ballot during their board meeting on Thursday.

"The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that PCCLD remains a vibrant and enduring resource for our community," said PCCLD Board of Trustees President Fredrick Quintana.

In 2019, Pueblo County voters approved a library funding measure allowing PCCLD to purchase more books each year, renovate libraries, and strengthen operations. A new state law, Colorado House Bill 24B-1001, now requires special districts to seek voter approval before exceeding a 5.25 percent annual property tax revenue limit, even when no new taxes are being levied.

The proposed measure does not increase the tax rate. For the average homeowner, the current PCCLD mill levy costs approximately \$3.40 per month for every \$100,000 of actual home value. Waiving the tax limit would allow PCCLD to retain the funding levels previously authorized by voters in 2019.

The proposed ballot measure is intended to provide the stable funding necessary to maintain current operating hours, staffing levels, and community services, allowing the district to keep pace with inflation while continuing to serve the community at current levels.

PCCLD serves as a critical resource for the community. It provides children with safe places for homework help and early literacy programs. It offers job seekers access to high-speed internet and workforce resources, and it provides seniors with community connection and digital literacy support. The district's Facility Master Plan includes

completing planned renovations and upgrades at the Giodone (St. Charles Mesa), Greenhorn Valley (Colorado City), Lamb (Pueblo's South Side), and Pueblo West libraries. These community investments depend on stable and predictable funding.

PCCLD is a past recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The district has earned recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association for 17 consecutive years for excellence in financial reporting and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

"Our libraries play a vital role in supporting literacy, lifelong learning, workforce development, innovation, and civic engagement. Maintaining a strong library system is an investment in the future of Pueblo County and in the opportunities available to every resident," Quintana continued.

PCCLD provides free access to books, digital resources, and internet services for Pueblo County residents. It supports early childhood literacy, after-school learning, workforce development, and adult enrichment programming. The district operates eight branch locations serving the residents of Pueblo and Pueblo County.