

PRESS REPORT

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Pueblo Library District partners with AI platform, BoodleBox

By **Abby Smith** KRDO

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) announces a partnership with BoodleBox, an AI learning and collaboration platform, to advocate for AI literacy.

PCCLD says it is the first public library in the nation to partner with the AI platform.

"As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes how people access information, learn, work, and create, public libraries have an essential role to play as trusted guides. Through this initiative, we are preparing our staff to understand AI tools, support responsible use, strengthen digital literacy, and help the public evaluate information with confidence," PCCLD Executive Director Sherri Baca said.

Officials say the platform BoodleBox allows users to access multiple AI tools in one place. The library says the platform uses a proprietary technology to reduce the impact and carbon footprint of AI interactions by up to 96 percent.

The platform also protects user data and, according to PCCLD, does not use it to train AI models.

Residents can attend the district's official AI initiative on Sept. 22 in Ryals Grand Event Space at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

"Public libraries have always been the heart of community growth. PCCLD is showing what it looks like to lead with intention — prioritizing equity and access so the whole community moves forward together. BoodleBox is honored to support this mission, and we can't wait to connect with everyone in Pueblo this September," BoodleBox Founder and CEO France Hoang said.

For more information about the AI platform, [click here](#).

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PUEBLO COUNTY

Pueblo City-County Library Asks for Ballot Measure Consideration



Shirley Pigg
Greenhorn Valley View

If you're a voter in Pueblo County, you'll have the chance to support the local library in the November 2026 election by help-

ing to prevent funding losses. The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) is asking voters to consider a ballot measure on November 3 that aims to protect funding for PCCLD without increasing taxes. This request stems from a new Colorado law (House Bill 24B 1001) that requires special districts to obtain voter approval before exceeding a 5.25 percent property tax revenue limit, even if no new taxes are imposed.

The measure seeks to lift this state-imposed 5.25 percent property tax revenue limit while

maintaining the current voter-approved mill levy rate. The PCCLD Board of Trustees and the Pueblo County Board of County Commissioners are referring this matter to voters for a decision. Waiving the tax limit would enable PCCLD to retain the funding levels previously authorized by voters in 2019.

In 2019, nearly 60% of Pueblo County voters approved a 0.6 mill levy for the library district. This funding measure allowed PCCLD to purchase more books

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each year, renovate libraries, and strengthen operations. The 2026 ballot measure is crucial for the future of public library services and community programs because the new law requires special districts to seek voter approval before exceeding the property tax revenue limit, regardless of whether new taxes are being levied.

A "yes" vote on the proposed ballot measure aims to provide the stable funding necessary to maintain current operating hours, staffing levels, and community services. This will allow the district to keep pace with inflation while continuing to serve the community at existing levels. If the ballot measure fails, the library district may face challenging decisions regarding public library services and community programs.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the library's expenditures, and PCCLD has received honors from the Government Finance

Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting for the 17th consecutive year. "As a taxpayer-supported institution, we take our obligation to manage resources with integrity and transparency seriously, ensuring that the community can have confidence in how taxpayer dollars are used," said Sherri Baca, executive director of PCCLD. Since 2019, PCCLD has renovated the Rawlings, Lucero, and Barkman libraries, maintained national recognition for excellence in library service, and provided essential programs such as early literacy, workforce resources, digital literacy, and community connections. Library Board of Trustees President Frederick Quintana said that the state property tax revenue cap could threaten the library district's hours, programming, and availability of materials, among other operational aspects.

The ballot question asks: "SHALL THE PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT WAIVE THE 5.25% PROPERTY TAX LIMIT FOR ALL FUTURE PROPERTY TAX YEARS, WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, AS SUCH PROPERTY TAX LIMIT IS CREATED BY HOUSE BILL 24B-1001 AND SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-1702, C.R.S., TO ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO REALIZE THE FULL BENEFIT OF ITS CURRENT VOTER AUTHORIZED

PROPERTY TAX RATE AND SHALL ALL DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?"

Nearly 91% of the PCCLD budget comes from property tax revenue, Quintana noted. The library's mill levy, which has been in place since 2019, costs \$3.40 monthly per \$100,000 in actual home value. "I believe our community values libraries, and this is just one step we need to take to ask for continued support," Quintana said.

Quintana also mentioned, "The library district is already operating as efficiently as possible in staffing and expenditures. If we lose funding, it will prompt us to reevaluate what resources and hours we can provide."

The 2019 vote included funding for remodels at locations such as Lamb and Pueblo West. However, those remodels have yet to happen and may not proceed without adequate funding. Each year, the library district needs to purchase new books, eBooks, movies, laptops, hotspots, tools, seeds, and park passes. Programs and services such as Summer Reading, story time, tech help, and adult literacy classes are all supported by the same budget. A reduced budget would likely result in fewer hours of service.

Pueblo library district launches new AI partnership with BoodleBox

Jessica Skropanic USA TODAY NETWORK/The Pueblo Chieftain

Sept. 19, 2026, 3:30 a.m. MT

Pueblo County library users will soon have a new way to learn about artificial intelligence.

The library district is the first public library in the nation to partner with AI learning platform BoodleBox, the library announced.

The platform allows users to access multiple AI tools in one place, with a focus on privacy and environmental sustainability, according to the announcement.

What is BoodleBox?

BoodleBox is an AI sandbox that lets users explore AI technologies without their data being used to train external models, according to the announcement. The platform also claims to reduce the environmental impact of AI interactions through proprietary technology.

Library patrons are free to access any AI platform of their choosing through library devices and Wi-Fi hotspots, the library said, but staff encourage them to use BoodleBox, which they said is a secure and privacy-centered platform.

Why AI literacy matters

The library district says it is committed to helping residents navigate emerging technologies. The initiative is part of a broader effort to bridge the digital divide and support lifelong learning.

Pueblo City-County Library District integrates AI literacy platform

by: [Dara Korn](#) FOX21 News

Posted: Sep 22, 2026 / 03:17 PM MDT

(PUEBLO, Colo.) — The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) has integrated an Artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy platform into the library system by partnering with BoodleBox, an AI learning and collaboration platform.

PCCLD said that by partnering with BoodleBox, it has become the first public library in the nation to adopt the AI platform. BoodleBox lets users access multiple AI tools in one place, and because user data stays within the platform, it allows users to build shared intelligence in a trusted environment. The user data is protected and not used to train AI models, providing a secure, privacy-centered platform.

The library district started the first phase by training staff on AI literacy before extending it to the public. “We’re rolling it out for our staff so that they can understand fully how to use that,” said Nick Potter, PCCLD Library Foundation Executive Director. “Helping them with their own individual proficiency and professional uses, and then eventually showing our public how to use it.”

PCCLD stated that the integration of the AI system is part of the library’s dedication to the responsibility to ensure that the Pueblo community is keeping pace with emerging technologies. PCCLD’s goal is to equip staff and community with the skills, literacy, and confidence to use AI safely, ethically, and effectively.

PCCLD staff will use AI to improve internal workflows, boost staff efficiency, enhance patron services, and build a robust emerging technology skill set for both staff and patrons.

“Right now we are doing a watch-and-learn with our community as well as with our library staff,” said Potter. “Going over the library’s philosophy of ‘human-in-the-loop,’ that we do not just throw over our professional or human expertise and discernment over to AI, and that we are a partner with this technology as an assistant for us, and that we’re teaching how to use this in a very effective and efficient way.”