DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Denver Public Library Sustainable Funding

Denver City Council
BIZ Committee
July 27, 2022

Our Ask of Council

Place a 1.5 Mills property tax TABOR question on the November 2022 ballot and let the citizens decide if they are willing to fund additional library services

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Proposed Ballot Title

SHALL CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER TAXES BE INCREASED BY NOT MORE THAN $36 MILLION (APPROXIMATELY $4.19 PER MONTH FOR THE TYPICAL HOME) IN 2023 AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RECEIVED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY INCREASING THE CITY'S MILL LEVY RATE 1.5 MILLS, WHICH WILL BE USED TO FUND THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EXISTING SERVICES AND MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

- INCREASING PAY FOR LIBRARIANS AND STAFF MAKING BELOW-MARKET WAGES
- INCREASING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT PATRONS WHO LACK INTERNET ACCESS
- ENHANCING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, OLDER ADULTS, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND VULNERABLE GROUPS LIKE IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
- EXPANDING RESOURCES FOR THOSE IN THE JOB MARKET AND HELPING CONNECT PEOPLE TO POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS IN THE COMMUNITY
- RETURNING LIBRARY BRANCHES FROM REDUCED HOURS TO NORMAL SCHEDULES AND ALLOWING LIBRARIES TO BE OPEN ON NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS
- EXPANDING THE COLLECTION OF BOOKS, MEDIA, AND OTHER POPULAR ITEMS TO REDUCE WAIT TIMES

AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE SUCH MILL LEVY BEGINNING IN TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2023 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER TO OFFSET PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS OR ABATEMENTS OR REDUCTIONS IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE ASSESSED VALUATION; AND SHALL THE REVENUE AND EARNINGS ON THIS PROPERTY TAX BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER LAW?

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Ordinance

Key Points
- Amount

- 1.5 Mills
- Not included in the previously voter approved 6% cap same as: Developmental Disabilities Fund, Capital Maintenance Fund, and Bond Principal & Interest Fund
- Maintenance of Effort
  - “All moneys in the Fund must be used in accordance with this section and may not replace or supplant any general fund appropriations allocated each year to the Denver Public Library.”

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Ordinance

Key Points
- Budgeting

- Special Revenue Fund - Denver Public Library Fund - will be created following voter approval
- Council will annually appropriate funds into the SRF based on Department of Finance projections for the upcoming year
- DoF will automatically true up the fund
- DPL will use the budget process for SRFs like the Parks Legacy Fund
- Should a Library District ever be approved by Council or the voters, these dollars would transfer to that entity

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DPL Available Operating Funds

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
General Fund	$49M	$52M	$49.3M	$48M	$54.6M
ARPA*				$1.7M	$1M
TOTAL	$49M	$52M	$49.3M	$49.7M	$55.6M

*ARPA funds are one-time, not on-going funds

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Capital & Bond Funding

- 2022 Capital Funding - $5.8M
  - Central Library Renovation $5,000,000
  - Deferred Maintenance $830,000
- 2021 Rise GO Bond - $29M
  - Globeville Branch Library Construction $12,000,000
  - Hampden Branch Library Expansion $3,440,000
  - Westwood Branch Library Construction $13,880,000
- 2017 Elevate Denver GO Bond - $71M
  - Central Library Renovation $50,627,040
  - Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Renovation $2,891,000
  - John "Thunderbird Man" Emhoolah Jr Branch Library Renovation (formerly Byers Branch) $1,473,478
  - Smiley Branch Library Renovation $1,533,340
  - Athmar Park Branch Library Renovation $2,415,627
  - Eugene Field Branch Library Renovation $1,568,834
  - Pauline Robinson Branch Library Renovation $1,523,185
  - Ross-Barnum Branch Library Renovation $1,543,515
  - Ross-Broadway Branch Library Renovation $2,385,069
  - Ross-University Hills Branch Library Renovation $2,171,032
  - Schlessman Family Branch Library $3,004,044

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~$30 Million Anticipated Uses

	Operating	Capital
Communities $11.3 million	$9.7 million • ~75 FTE to add hours, programming, and language services at branches • ~6 FTE Digital inclusion and community outreach services • Expand collection materials to reduce wait times • Increase language access • Increase programs for vulnerable populations	$1.6 million • Replace laptops/PCs for customer use, add new audio-visual equipment in meeting rooms

Spaces
$15.2 million
	$2.2 million
	• ~20 FTE staffing & contracted services buildings maintenance and improvements
	• ~5 FTE for teen and youth spaces
		$13 million
		• Deferred maintenance and improvements including:
		  • ADA corrections
		  • Expand ideaLAB
		  • Electrical inspections
		  • Repair landscaping
		  • Painting and flooring replacement
		  • Update community rooms

People $5 million	$4.5 million • Increase wages to market rates • Increase training and professional development opportunities for staff • ~5 FTE support services	$500 thousand • Upgrade and add software licenses for staff

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Thank you for your consideration!