



# Library Expansion Ballot Issue 6A Fact Sheet

## Overview

Buena Vista Public Library seeks a 1.2 increase in its mill levy rate, the first increase request in 28 years. Since then, the Library completely funded construction of its current building in 2006 and has met increasing demands for library space, resources, and services. However, the population continues to grow by 3% per year, increasing demand on space, books, event offerings and attendance, and services. A larger library is essential to accommodate growth of services into the future.

## What is the cost?

The construction cost for the proposed expansion is \$4.5 million, which includes the cost of operating a leased space for library services during construction as well as funding required upgrades to HVAC and electrical systems. In addition to the second floor, the main floor will undergo a reconfiguration and update. The cost reflects approximately 9,000 sq. ft. plus lease space costs.

## Expansion

The design of the existing building includes infrastructure to support a second floor on the main portion of the Library. The Library recently completed a study of expansion options, concluding a second floor addition as the best return on investment of taxpayer funds. An increase in space incurs long term debt and requires additional operating expenses of staff, materials, and maintenance.

## Funding the Expansion

The Library's goal is to minimize the ask from property owners by securing multiple grants and using the Library's capital reserves. The remaining costs of increased operating expenses and construction debt results in a ballot issue request for an increase of 1.2 in the Library's mill rate. Once long-term debt is resolved, the Library will restore reserves and address growth needs for future generations.

## What is the impact to property owners?

The Library's service area follows the R31 Buena Vista School District boundaries. If voters within this area approve a 1.2 mill levy increase in November, residential property owners in the northern half of Chaffee County can expect an estimated \$8.16 increase per \$100,000 in valuation.

**Example: \$600,000 home = \$49 a year or \$4.08 a month**

## What if the ballot fails?

The Library's limited space will continue to inhibit its ability to serve the growing population and the increased demand for resources and services. The problems will be pushed downstream at a potentially higher cost to taxpayers, and the Library will be required to make cuts to current services in order to save revenues for the needed construction. Possible outcomes include reduced number of events for all ages, reduced public seating and workspace to accommodate book collection growth, reduced number of public computers, reduced staff services, and reduced hours. Grant funders interested in our project require a show of community support. A failed ballot measure weakens our chance for grant funding. Property taxpayers will be asked again in the future for an increase; **the library cannot fund the increased operating costs of an expansion without additional funding.**

# The Vision

## First Floor Remodel

- Create a larger and more robust children's library
- Move computers and study areas upstairs
- Add more shelving and books
- Keep quick access items on the lower floor
- Add a self service checkout option
- Upgrade to sustainable HVAC



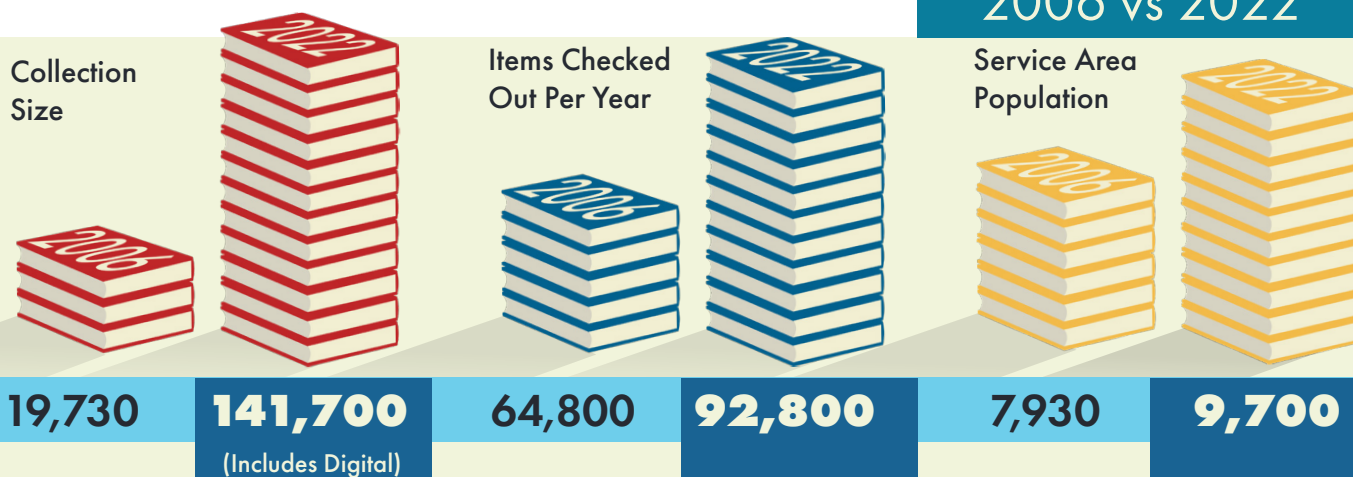
## Second Floor Addition

- 4,300 additional sq. ft.
- Second meeting room (available to community)
- More study rooms
- Community service space
- Tech Lab and maker space
- Local heritage displays and books
- Large common area
- Teen space and books

## Increased Service

- More classes and events for all ages
- More reading selections with 20% more book spending
- Shorter wait times on books and ebooks
- Technology support and classes
- Safe, engaging spaces for youth

## Growth 2006 vs 2022



## New Services since 2006

- Marmot Consortium: Access to shared collection of 30 libraries
- Study Rooms: Booked over 1,400 times in 2022
- eBooks and audiobooks
- Movie Streaming
- Expanded classes and events for ALL ages