

Q & A - CHRISTIAN COUNTY LIBRARY LEVY INCREASE REQUEST - APRIL 2010

When will the library issue appear on the ballot, and what will it say?

Trustees of the Christian County Library District voted unanimously on December 18, 2009 to submit to the voters of the Christian County Library District at the April 6, 2010 election a proposal to increase the current Christian County Library levy to twenty-five cents for the purposes of constructing and operating libraries to serve the entire county. It was submitted to the Christian County Clerk's office immediately after a special meeting of the Library Board on January 15, 2010 to discuss ballot wording. It will read:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION
CHRISTIAN COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Shall the assessed valuation for the Christian County Library District be increased to \$0.25 per hundred dollars assessed valuation from the currently collected rate of \$0.0875 per hundred dollars assessed valuation?

- Yes
- No

LEVY QUESTIONS

What is the present allowable collected levy for the Christian County Library District?

Residents of the Christian County Library District pay eight and seven five hundredth cents (\$0.0875) in 2010. Using forms from the Missouri State Auditor's office and local assessment figures and other information, rates for each Missouri political subdivision are set annually.

When and why has the Christian County Library District changed its tax rate?

Christian County voters approved the formation and funding of the Christian County Library district April 1949 at the statutory minimum rate of ten cents per hundred dollar valuation. In April 1971, they approved the only increase in the district's history. The new twenty cent levy funded the construction in 1972 of the library's current only facility.

Missouri law once allowed changes in assessed real estate valuation to be made only upon building or selling property. As a result, identical properties in the same neighborhood often had vastly different assessed values. Taxes were determined as much by the date property was acquired as by the property's value or the voted support of districts there. By 1984, Missouri real property assessments had become intolerably inequitable and unfair. For residences of equal value supporting the same taxing districts to be taxed equally, a statewide reassessment occurred. To prevent windfall increases to taxing districts by this fairness provision, tax rates in each district decreased by a ration reflecting the increased assessment there. To prevent re-occurrence of this unfair taxation, biennial reassessment of all real property began. After the statewide

reassessment, in 1985, the library's voted twenty cent levy fell to twelve cents. A second factor in reducing the voted rate to lower collected rates is Missouri's commonly called "Hancock Amendment". To prevent districts such as libraries from getting more income from existing property than the annual cost of living increase as values increase, every district in the state annually completes multi-page forms and publicizes and holds tax rate hearings. Christian County has grown faster than cost of living. As property became more valuable, rollbacks occurred. The current allowable collected rate is eight and seventy-five hundredths cents (\$.0875).

Is personal property as well as real property taxed?

With some exceptions, particularly by entities such as cities who may also receive sales tax revenue, districts receive property tax from both real and personal property. Personal property includes vehicles and a few other categories. Current or future voted tax rates for the Christian County Library District are charged on both real and personal property.

Why is the current allowable eight point seven five cents collected rate stated on the April ballot when the voted twenty cent voted rate was mentioned on the November ballot?

Several years ago, the library received an Attorney General opinion that ballot issues must state the voted levy amount on ballots seeking a levy increase. The collected rate may change annually, including after the ballot is certified, but the most recent voted rate remains the same until voters change it. That opinion, followed on the November ballot, was a completely legitimate and legal option. Since then, our bond attorney's search of current laws revealed no statutory requirement to state the voted rate. Senate Bill 711, a wide-ranging Missouri property tax law passed in 2008, is still being interpreted. Both SB711 and the public opinion survey favor mentioning the collected rate, even though it is flexible and changing. That is the wording on the April 2010 ballot. Like the November 2009 ballot, the wording is a completely legitimate and legal option. Although we explained the difference in voted and collected rates at every opportunity, we hope this will be clearer to voters.

If voters approve the levy increase on the April 2010 ballot, when will property owners have to pay this increase?

If the levy is approved in April, Christian County Library District property owners would first see the higher rate on their 2010 tax bill.

What percentage of my property tax goes to support the library?

As of January 1, 2010, these are total property tax per hundred dollars valuation, library amount and library percentage of total. Valuation is not the original assessor's value but a percent based on the type of property. The residential rate is 19%. Because not all taxing districts - school, road, city, fire, etc. share the same boundaries, there may be slight discrepancies, but this is true for most of the district. This is ONLY for property tax. Many districts receive significant income from sales tax, user fees, state or federal aid or other sources. Property tax and the interest on it usually accounts for well over ninety percent of all public library revenue.

As of 1 January 2010, the property tax levies in Christian County are:

TOWN	TOTAL LEVY PER \$100	LIBRARY	PERCENT
BILLINGS	\$6.4400	\$.0875	1.36%
CHADWICK	\$5.9886	\$.0875	1.46%
CLEVER	\$6.3892	\$.0875	1.37%
FREMONT HILLS	\$5.5750	\$.0875	1.57%
HIGHLANDVILLE	\$5.6769	\$.0875	1.54%
NIXA	\$6.2679	\$.0875	1.40%
OZARK	\$5.8607	\$.0875	1.49%
SADDLEBROOK	\$4.9831	\$.0875	1.76%
SPARTA	\$5.0849	\$.0875	1.72%
AVERAGE	\$5.8074	\$.0875	1.52%

Notes:

- 1) Because district boundaries such as cities, road, fire and schools are not identical, some discrepancies exist, but true of most of each area
- 2) Sparta school levy increase of \$.60, approved November 2009 to begin 2010, not included. If included, Sparta percentage would drop to 1.54%, average levy increase to \$5.874 and average percent of property tax to library be 1.49%
- 3) Property tax for cities of Nixa and Ozark apply only to real, not personal property
- 4) Property tax levies are from school, state, surtax, fire, college, Senate Bill 40, Health, Ambulance, road, city and library
- 5) Because some road districts do not match any city, assigned Garrison to Chadwick, Selmore to Highlandville and Stoneshire to Fremont Hills, though not actual matches
- 6) If the requested 16.25 cent library levy increase be approved and no other levy changes in Christian County due to elections or annual tax rate settings, the 2010 total average levy would be \$6.0365; the library levy \$.25; and the percent of levy for the library 4.14%.

How much will the increase affect homeowner's property taxes?

The annual cost of this increase will vary depending on the appraised value of the residential property. The following list shows current \$.0875 and proposed future \$.25 taxes:

Residential property appraised at \$75,000:	Before	\$12.47	After	\$35.62	Added	\$23.15
Residential property appraised at \$100,000:	Before	\$16.63	After	\$47.50	Added	\$30.87
Residential property appraised at \$150,000:	Before	\$24.94	After	\$71.25	Added	\$46.31
Residential property appraised at \$200,000:	Before	\$33.25	After	\$95.00	Added	\$61.75
Residential property appraised at \$250,000:	Before	\$41.56	After	\$118.75	Added	\$77.19
Residential property appraised at \$300,000:	Before	\$49.88	After	\$142.50	Added	\$92.62

To what percentages of the value are property taxes applied?

Residential real estate - 19%

Agricultural real estate, farm equipment and livestock - 12%

Commercial, industrial, utilities, railroad and other real estate neither vacant nor occupied by owner - 32%

Cars, boats, trailers, motorcycles, etc. - 33 1/3%, that is one third of value

Grain and crops - .5%, that is one two hundredth of value

For instance,

- 1) A \$1,000 cow would be assessed at \$120. The library tax now would be ten and a half cents now, and thirty cents after a levy increase.
- 2) A car valued at \$20,000 would be assessed at \$6,666. The library tax would now be \$5.83 and after a levy increase \$16.67.
- 3) Grain valued at \$10,000 would be assessed at \$50, and the current tax about four and a third cents and afterwards about twelve and a half cents.

Why is the tax rate written the way it is? I don't understand the charge being based on something other than what the assessor told me my property was worth. Why is the rate stated as per hundred dollars valuation?

State laws were originally written when property was rarely valued in the thousands. Property tax rates were and still are based on the hundreds of dollars of value rather than the currently more comfortable and expected per thousand dollars. It sounds awkward to say you pay on 190 hundred rather than nineteen thousand. But, rewriting all Missouri laws to state levies as per thousand dollars is massive and expensive and has not been attempted. The assessor places a value on your personal, real, agricultural, business or other properties and conveys that amount to you. Owners are notified of assessment and may protest values with which they disagree to a Board of Equalization before final annual county valuation is determined. Legislation making government support fair to different categories of taxpayers places different multipliers on different types of property – commercial, residential, agricultural and forest.

Where are more answers on property tax available?

<http://oa.mo.gov/stc/faqs.htm> - See additional topics on left hand panel of this page.

<http://www.stc.mo.gov/faqs.htm>

<http://www.christiancountycollector.com/>

<http://www.christiancountymo.gov/assessor.htm>

<http://www.mocities.com/Conferences/documents/PropTax.pdf>

<http://auditor.mo.gov/local/default.htm>

<http://www.mocities.com/documents/MissouriHancockAmendment.pdf>

<http://missourinet.posterous.com/the-shadow-of-mel-hancock-part-1>

<http://missourinet.posterous.com/the-shadow-of-mel-hancock-part-2>

<http://missourinet.posterous.com/the-shadow-of-mel-hancock-part-3>

What will a successful levy increase provide?

The new property tax rate will pay to construct, equip, furnish, stock, staff and operate three libraries, a central library and administrative center serving about 50,000 people in and near Nixa and Ozark; a west country branch serving about 15,000 people in and near Billings, Clever and the rest of the Christian County Panhandle; and an east county branch serving about 15,000 people with addresses in Rogersville, Fordland, Bruner, Sparta, Chadwick, Forsyth and Garrison.

Does this Certificate of Participation Sunset like a Bond Issue?

Sometimes Missouri government entities request Bond Issues to pay for Capital Projects. The money requested is normally in addition to operating funds. The vote on Bond Issues is for a particular amount. Often these bonds for capital projects are for a listed time period, after which it sunsets or is no longer collected. Bond Issues are often re-structured and extended, again in addition to operating funds for the governmental unit requesting the voter authorization. Some government entities with both operating funds and bond issues have significant other sources of income such as user fees, federal and or state aid, foundations, or sales taxes. Except for state aid and cost-recovery income from print-outs, photocopies and overdue fees, Christian County Library has no money from any of these sources. State aid and cost-recovery income have never equaled ten percent of the library income.

Certificates of participation, a sort of lease-purchase agreement for which certificates are sold and then repaid from library operating funds, are the most common method of building public libraries in Missouri. When the board originally voted to place the issue on the ballot, certificates of participation were the only type of funding considered. Since then, the possibility has occurred that Build America Bonds may qualify. Regular construction bonds for capital projects are not planned.

The increased levy for the Christian County Library District is for income for the district, period, with no division between capital and operating funds. Operating five times the library space on less than three times the income won't be easy, especially during the time when the construction costs are paid. But, the accountants say we can do so by careful and cautious budgeting. However, it would definitely not be remotely possible if the income were to return to the current rate what barely allowed operating the smallest per-capita library for 30,000 - 80,000 population in Missouri..As the buildings are paid for with the new levy and numerous requests for grants, the money will be freed to operate the libraries. There will not be some extra or free funds to eliminate if the libraries are also to be operated.

Although the rate will be, as in the past, subject to the biennial roll-down from Hancock, actually sunsetting the source of over 90% of the entire funding for the Christian County Library District could not be an option for an existing library district. If property tax to support the district ceased to exist, all public libraries and Christian County residents' access to the services of public libraries would end. Some letter writers have suggested some "other way" may exist to pay actual ongoing operating costs. There is no reason to expect that such a person or organization has ever or ever might in the future exist, but if they did, it would not be a public library by definition in Missouri State Statute, as those relate to publicly-supported library districts.

Perhaps questions about sunsetting resulted from confusion that perhaps a bond issue for capital projects was being considered or requested instead of the certificate of participation. That is not the case.

What does an election cost?

When a government entity places a property tax issue on the ballot, charges for the election is divided in each precinct between the entities having a question on the ballot in that precinct. Costs include certifying the ballot language, printing the ballot, placing the legal notices, paying

poll workers, use of the voting machines, supplies such as pens, costs of use of the polling places and related election costs. The number of items on the ballot, the number of precincts voting, the expected voter turn-out and other factors affect the cost. The county pays the costs, billing the district when final figures are known. Budgeting for an election is an educated guess. The county estimated a maximum of \$50,000 to place the library improvements question on the ballot. For a district with the library's limited income, that is serious money. **ONE rate increase in SIXTY-ONE years, and that one THIRTY-EIGHT years ago!** The district does not casually request a levy increase. None of the actual campaign costs can be paid with library income from any source. A government entity can "educate but not advocate." That is, we can explain what we are asking and why. We can tell what will happen with and without the requested funding. We cannot tell voters what to do with that information. That is the role of the independently funded campaign committee, registered with and operating under the rules of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

The library's total bill for the November 2009 election was \$33,125.25. More political subdivisions have ballot issues in April election. That bill should be significantly lower. The exact amount will be known when the county bills the library. The proper budgeting for the maximum estimate was in place at both elections to pay the library's share of costs.

Is this a bond issue?

The funding method is called Certificates of Participation. The income may be used for both beginning and operating library facilities. No separate local property tax levy is suggested or requested as sometimes occurs, for instance, with school districts. An alternate funding possibility, called Build America Bonds, is also simply a library income source to be used as needed for capital or operating costs, not two separate voted levies.

Can I buy Christian County Library Certificates of Participation in Christian County?

The underwriter is Edward Jones. They have six Christian County offices. Certificates of Participation are issued in \$5,000 increments for varying lengths. COPs share some similarities to the better known Certificates of Deposit, or CDs. COPs interest and specifics are determined in underwriter's structuring close to the issue date. After approval of the funding, interested residents may purchase certificates. For a brief period after being issued, locals will have the first opportunity to buy them before they are offered to state, regional, national and institutional buyers. The interest and principal will be repaid with library property tax income.

Looking at my entire property tax bill, I think it's too much.

It's true that many fear, dread and are unprepared for the annual property tax bill. Library taxes are among the lowest on your tax statement, often so little that income from a couple families is required to buy an average novel and that from about a dozen families to pay for a single audio book on CD's. Averaged county-wide, most Christian County citizens pay about one and one half percent of their property tax to the library. No part of other entities' property tax and no sales tax go to the library. The requested increase will provide libraries within ten miles of most residents, saving more than the increase in just gas expenses. The requested support will cost less

than an additional nine cents a day per each hundred thousand dollars value of your home.

DESIGN

What design experiences do the firm and individual design professionals have?

The award winning design firm selected by Christian County Library, SDA of Springfield, Missouri has extensive experience in both designing public facilities and work in Missouri and the Ozarks. Among libraries designed by project architect Jim Stufflebeam, Christian County resident and head of the firm Michael Sapp, and architect Eric Street are The Library Center, The Library Station, Midtown Carnegie, Republic Branch Library, Willard Branch Library and Park Central Branch for Springfield-Greene County Library District, Springfield, Missouri; Rolling Hills Consolidated Library District, St. Joseph, Missouri; the Midwest Genealogy Center Library, Independence, Missouri; the Morgan County Library in Versailles, Missouri; the Arnold Recreation Center and Fox Arnold Branch Library and the Jefferson County Northwest Branch for Jefferson County Library District, Arnold, Missouri; West Plains Library, West Plains, Missouri; and the Baxter County Library in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Schools, including the libraries within the schools, designed by the firm include Clever High School, Clever, Missouri; Nixa High School, Century Elementary, John Thomas Elementary and Helen Mathews Elementary in Nixa, Missouri; Central High School, Wilson's Creek Middle School and Cherokee Middle School in Springfield, Missouri; Willard East Elementary and Willard Junior High, Willard, Missouri; Salem Elementary, Salem, Missouri; Fair Grove Middle School, Fair Grove, Missouri; and Willow Springs High School, Willow Springs, Missouri. SDA also designed The Republic Community Center, Republic, Missouri; The Center, Nixa, Missouri; Branson Recplex, Branson, Missouri; The OC, Ozark, Missouri; Carl Junction, Missouri Community Center; Lebanon Civic Center, Lebanon, Missouri; the addition to the Ozark First Baptist Church, Ozark, Missouri; addition to James River Assembly, Ozark, Missouri; Evangel University Academic Building II; Missouri State University's Jordan Valley Innovative Center; and Waynesville Career Center, Waynesville, Missouri among other projects.

How were decisions made for design professionals?

A lengthy and complicated procedure of months' duration required detailed RFQ's, firm responses, references, interviews and compiling trustee votes on each firm on various qualifications.

COMPARISONS

How Does Christian County Library Compare With Similar Missouri Libraries?

Based on 2006 statewide statistics, the most recent available, for Missouri libraries serving between 30,000 and 80,000 residents:

	Christian County Library	Average Missouri Public Library
PROPERTY TAX RATE:	\$.0875	\$.25
FACILITIES:	1 library	4.4 libraries
SPACE:	10,050 sf [.143 sf per capita]	31,270 sf [.590 sf per capita]

BUDGET:	\$626,468 [\$8.88 per capita]	\$1,119,731 [\$19.49 per capita]
COLLECTION SIZE:	78,170 [1.11 per capita]	135,500 [2.37 per capita]
COLLECTION COSTS:	\$103,121 [\$1.46 per capita]	\$137,575 [\$2.50 per capita]
VISITORS:	88,854 people [1.26 visits per capita]	152,007 [2.77 per capita]
CIRCULATION:	139,397 [1.98 per capita]	270,566 [4.96 per capita]

SOME CHRISTIAN COUNTY LIBRARY 2009 STATISTICS

	New Patrons	Library Attendance - Ozark	Library Attendance - Clever	Computer users (non-catalog)	Home Page Views	New Library Materials (Unique)	Circulation (unadjusted figures)	Inter-library Loans (Borrowed)
JAN	360	7,035	581	1,809	16,246	509	15,505	89
FEB	324	7,566	511	1,823	16,825	553	14,943	143
MAR	359	8,527	579	1,970	16,018	548	16,877	87
APR	265	8,149	547	1,922	15,347	625	15,868	151
MAY	319	7,715	568	1,787	14,911	259	15,378	129
JUN	352	8,790	603	1,924	15,290	285	17,504	162
JUL	404	10,112	680	2,250	18,460	383	20,360	99
AUG	362	8,605	718	2,083	15,568	269	17,650	134
SEP	319	8,768	709	2,193	14,474	320	17,919	308
OCT	263	8,499	671	2,075	14,965	457	16,514	127
NOV	209	7,406	549	1,855	12,597	250	17,164	147
DEC	186	6,998	537	1,813	11,012	583	14,447	128
TOTAL	3,722	98,170	7,253	23,504	181,713	5,041	200,129	1,704
Number of visitors does not include people coming to van deliveries or picking up or returning library materials to J & M or Nixa's The Center. Physically in library 105,423, daily average - 351.41								
Circulation does not account for items checked in groups such as paperbacks or magazines Adding materials checked out several at a time makes total circulation 212,053								

The American Library Association has much more comprehensive reports from over a thousand libraries, available for purchase in print or electronic form or as summaries for free at the following addresses:

www.ala-apa.org/salaries/alaapasurveys.htm

http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/july2009/salsurvey_apa.cfm

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6656813.html>

Other sources, some free, mostly paid, include:

<http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Librarian/Salary>

Public Library statistics from the detailed annual reports required of all publicly supported public libraries since 2007 are on the Institute of Library and Museum Services website. From 1989 through 2006, they were on the National Center for Educational Statistic website. The most detailed reports are available exclusively through each state's agency over public libraries and those with a subscription to the Bibliostat Connect database which compiles and coordinates the detailed reports of over 7,000 public library systems. These are used by many libraries and are the source of many of the comparisons of Christian County Library with other Missouri libraries serving our population size.

<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/publib.asp>

<http://harvester.census.gov/imls/compare/index.asp>

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/>

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6705869.html>

Library comparisons include the Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index -HAPLR and the Library Journal's STAR Libraries

<http://www.haplr-index.com/>

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6705374.html>

Has library usage increased?

In recent years, demand everywhere for public library services has grown at an unprecedented rate. In Christian County, from 2004 to 2009, non-catalog public computer use went from 10,824 to 23,504, over 125% without even counting the classes and computer lab; home page views increased from 87,273 to 181,713, a 110% increase; circulation saw over a 50% growth from 139,397 to 212,053; and inter-library loans borrowed went up 200% from 578 to 1,704.

How many people use the library?

When the latest statistical report was submitted for state and federal collection near the end of 2009, there were 20,296 active Christian County Library patrons. All cards expire and must have all contact information re-verified on each anniversary date of obtaining the card. No fewer than 20,296 people over age six had used the Christian County Library during 2009. The most recent official population estimate, for July 1, 2008, gives 75,479 people in Christian County. Approximately ten percent of the county in 2000 was age five and under. An estimated 68,000 residents in 2009 were old enough to get a library card. The approximately 30% of the

population who had library cards is lower than the average library. However, the average library has branches nearer more of the people, is larger, and the better funding allows more services.

How does library usage change with new libraries?

Exact number predictions are mere guesses. However, attendance, and use of computers, the collection and the building inevitably increase when adequate, modern, conveniently located libraries replace crowded, problematic, aging facilities located far from many citizens. Such a change often results in a two to five fold increase from the year before to the year after the improvements.

NEW LIBRARY QUESTIONS

Where will new libraries be?

The Central Library will be at 801 N Fremont Rd, Nixa, on Fremont near Highway 14, adjacent to the Richwood campus of OTC. It is equal distance from the intersection of 14 and Main in Nixa, the stoplight at CC and Fremont near West Elementary and the stoplight at F and 3rd Street in Ozark. The site on the west edge of Ozark does have a Nixa address

The West County Branch will be at 7428 Highway 14 West, Billings. It is beside the People’s Bank in Clever, with entries from both Highway 14 and Public Avenue, also known as K Highway. The site on the west edge of Clever does have a Billings address

The East County Branch will be at 161 Wilson Court, across Highway 14 from the Sparta Post Office, just about a block east of the Sparta Cemetery. Surprise, the site on the east edge of Sparta does have a Sparta address.

Will there be computers?

Computers will be available at all locations for library operations, public catalog, public internet and standard software usage. There will be a computer lab at central and means for presenting programs and possible portable training at branches as well as wireless access.

HOW FAR ARE PROPOSED LIBRARIES FROM ME??

<u>To Central Library From</u>	<u>Miles</u>
[Note – Nixa & Ozark driving distances measured; others from GoogleMaps and plat books]	
BILLINGS - 14 & 60 - via 14	19.9
CHADWICK - Hwy 125 - via 125 & 14	17.6
CLEVER - 14 & K - via 14	14
CHESTNUTRIDGE - BB east of 176 - via 65, 14 & Fremont	13.4
DOUGLAS COUNTY LINE - east on 14	21.2
HIGHLANDVILLE - 160 & EE - via EE, 65, 14 & Fremont	9.6
FREMONT HILLS - CC & Fremont, via Fremont	3.7
HOPEDALE - via CC, 65, 14 & Fremont	4.4

LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE - west on 14	22.9
(2 miles to NW corner where Greene, Lawrence & Christian meet	24.9
& 4 miles to SW corner where Lawrence, Stone & Christian meet)	26.9
LINDEN - via JJ & Bus 14	11.1
NIXA - 14 & Main - via 14 & Fremont	3.7
NIXA - 14 & Main - via 14, Richwood & Fremont	3.4
NIXA - 14 & 160 - via 14 & Fremont	4.2
NIXA - 14 & 160 - via 14, Richwood & Fremont	3.9
NIXA - The Community Center - via North Rd & Fremont	3.4
NIXA - CC & 160 in Nixa, via CC & Fremont	6.8
OZARK - Hwy 14 bridge over Hwy 65	1.1
OZARK - 14, F, 3rd & Selmore - via Bus. 14	3.7
OZARK - 14, F, 3rd & Selmore - via F, 65 & 14	3.8
OZARK - courthouse - via Bus. 14	2.2
SADDLEBROOK - via 65 & Bus 14	14.2
SELMORE - via Selmore Rd & Bus 14	5.5
SPARTA - 125 & 14 (east side of town) - via 14	10.2
SPOKANE – via 160, EE, Bus 14	14.4
TANEY COUNTY LINE – south on 125	32.2
(2 miles to SE corner where Douglas, Taney & Christian meet)	34.2
TANEY COUNTY LINE – south on 65	14.3
WEBSTER COUNTY LINE – north on U & Elm Grove	14.8
(4 miles to NE corner where Douglas, Webster & Christian meet)	18.8
STONE COUNTY LINE - south on 160	19.4

To West County Library From

BILLINGS	5.9
BOAZ - east on 14 and south on 5	5.9
BOAZ – south on K, east on Willoughby and south on N	4.9
LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE – west on 60	10.9
LAWRENCE COUNTY LINE – west on 14	9.7
GREENE COUNTY LINE – west on 14 and east 60	10
GREENE COUNTY LINE – north on P	4.1
GREENE COUNTY LINE – east on 14 and north on ZZ	6.5
STONE COUNTY LINE – south on K	3.5
STONE COUNTY LINE – west on K Hill Rd., south on Metztein, west on Zoller Rd and south on 13	8.5
TERRELL – east on 14 and north on ZZ	5.5

To East County Library From

BRUNER	6.2
CHADWICK	7.6
CHRISTIAN CENTER	9.6
DOUGLAS COUNTY LINE - Highway 14	12
ELKHEAD	9.7
ELM GROVE	8.9

GARRISON	15.5
LINDEN	4.7
MCCRACKEN	4.6
OLDFIELD	3.5
PEDELO	10.1
SHADY GROVE	4.0
TANEY COUNTY LINE – south on 125	22

What did the land cost, and what was the value?

National Valuation Services of Springfield, Inc. provided appraisal services for all three sites. The contracts of all sites specified that the library would not pay more than the market value. In all three, part of the cost was a gift from the seller as they were bought for less than they were worth.

The 2.2 acre west county site was purchased from Todd Hensley and the People’s Bank for \$120,000. Appraised value was \$307,000, making a gift of \$187,000.

The 5.85 acre central library site was purchased from Scott and Naomi Bilyeu for \$380,000. The appraised value was \$554,000, making a gift of \$174,000.

The 1.62 acre east county site was purchased from Lindel Lipes for \$95,000. Originally in several lots with the total asking price of \$200,000, the appraised value after combining the lots was \$100,000, making a gift of \$5,000. After appraisal, a \$10,000 holdback from the seller and equal remaining contributions from the City of Sparta and the Library District combined in a plan to pave, gutter, curb and thus bring up to code Wilson Court which will serve as the library entrance. The frontage road between the site and Highway 14 was eliminated, and that area added to the site. Additionally, the City of Sparta agreed to vacate a sewer easement terminating on the site to allow more buildable space. All actions increase the value of the site, but a new valuation was not made after changes.

Why was land purchased before the election?

Christian County land in visible, accessible locations with utilities available has become much harder to find and more expensive in recent years, particularly in sizes to allow a library, parking, expansion space, and compliance with codes. Voters often told us that they needed to know where libraries to serve the entire county would be and what they would include before making a decision on their vote. To someday provide better for library users, for the past fifteen years, the district has annually saved a little money. We bought the land and paid the related professional fees with the saved money. There could be no guarantee of a future successful search for appropriate land. Land prices are much higher than a few years ago and are expected to continue to increase. Searching for appropriate land and obtaining it is a lengthy procedure. Estimating costs, but not obtaining, unverified land before an election should reasonably be expected to result in the need for additional funds requiring another election after one approval. Library-owned land allows construction of new libraries much quicker after approval than if a

land search had to follow an election. Additionally, it may be less expensive to build the three libraries at the same time and to build them now than in the future.

Did you consider going for a lower levy and just building one library

Most residents answering the surveys and taking part in the focus groups felt that their contributing to a county library fund should provide services available and convenient to them regardless of the part of the county in which they lived. Most felt they would not support a proposal which supplied convenient services only to other people, especially when it meant another election and at least years, perhaps decades, before convenient services could be supplied to them. Then, there was the question of which residents would be served, if there was a decision to limit improvements to a single part of the county. If the main library was chosen, the required levy would drop perhaps a couple of cents in return for the people who have never had a library near them having to continue to wait years for service. If one of the branches was built instead, the entire county would pay for whichever side of the county was chosen while the crowding and deterioration at headquarters and lack of service to the other side of the county continued unaddressed, and chances of ever getting approval to bring the system near average were greatly reduced. It was citizens' urgent request for service to all and fairly soon that drove the three library decision and determined the rate needed. Additionally, more and better bids are anticipated for more work. Also, costs estimates are likely more accurate close to the time of construction than years away from the when the libraries are built.

Are these three locations the only ones which will ever have service?

As quickly as means are found to afford them, at least pick-up and drop-off services will be provided to the more remote areas requesting them. At least one resident each in Billings, Highlandville and Elm Grove have recently asked if something could be provided near them, and in the past a similar query had come from Chadwick. The nearest proposed libraries would be about six miles from Billings, eight miles from Chadwick, nine miles from Elm Grove and ten miles from Highlandville.

What will the libraries look like?

In 2008, the library hired Sapp Design Associates, Architects or SDA of Springfield to design the new libraries. Using the library's space needs analysis and studies done by a consultant using library planning software called LibrisDesign, James Stufflebeam and Eric Street of SDA, worked with the library board and staff to begin preliminary plans early in 2009. After public hearings throughout the county, the plans were finalized before the November election. Sketches of proposed facilities will again be on public display in several county locations to be determined and announced later, including the library. On-line views are at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ChristianCountyLibrary/ProposedLibrarySitePlans#>

May citizens suggest appearance such as colors used and landscaping of libraries?

Within the budget, timing, good taste and practicality of materials used in the buildings and grounds, suggestions are welcomed. However, with the expression of numerous opinions, some

individuals are likely to have more of their preferred colors, landscaping, etc. than other individuals.

Can libraries be storm shelters?

Special strength, safety and backup utility issues for storm shelters under FEMA standards are beyond the budget projections for these buildings and vary from the library requirements. Perhaps, with non-library district funding and within FEMA guidelines, future additions might meet FEMA storm shelter criteria. The central library is too near the OTC and the OC shelters to qualify for a storm shelter grant. The branches could possibly qualify. However, the original proposed buildings for which funding is now sought, though better than being in the open or perhaps in many other structures, are not expected to meet the strict FEMA standards.

How soon will new libraries open?

If voters approve the funding, we expect to let bids on the three projects by or soon after mid-May, 2010 and to have site preparation work well underway by mid-summer. We project completion of all libraries by December 31, 2012, barring more than usual delays. Because they are smaller and simpler, the branches will likely open before the central library, perhaps as soon as May 2011. The exact opening dates are dependent on contractor schedules, building conditions, materials availability and related issues.

What sorts of green or sustainable options are planned?

The board has approved seeking LEED certification at the lowest level. That is the most affordable and has the biggest return for the investment. Points are allocated for using daylight to supplement or replace artificial lighting when possible; having the greatest area of permeable ground surface allowable under parking codes and driveway requirements to reduce runoff; using high efficiency electrical and plumbing equipment; re-use of construction materials; minimizing waste; improving insulation; using alternate energy sources; public transportation availability, minimizing the use of hazardous materials; and saving rainwater for irrigation, among other considerations. Although they may be explored, possible alternate energy such as wind or solar may not be feasible or affordable for the building size, location or comfort and safety of materials and occupants. Although public transportation is not being seriously considered at this time, there are talks and hopes for biking and hiking trails.

Are there elevators?

Americans with Disabilities Act requires all public multi-level buildings to provide an alternate to stairs for anyone with mobility difficulties. Only the central library has two floors proposed. There, an elevator will be beside the stairs near the circulation desk.

Are the sites tested for safety for, for instance, sinkholes?

Among the tests required in the due diligence portion of each real estate contract, engineering studies including soil and underground stability and composition were performed on each site prior to closing. Each was found to be satisfactory. More tests will be run as plans progress.

What is the capacity of the meeting rooms?

The central library's two large public meeting rooms can be opened into a single space with room for 150. A conference room in the central library will seat eight. We plan a children's or young adult indoor programming space for 25; an enclosed outdoor children's space for about twenty; and study rooms for four to six in the central library. Branches will have a meeting room with space for 30 which can serve for story hours and may open to the main library for added uses when no meeting is scheduled.

What will teens get out of it?

The Central Library will include a separate young adult area furnished and stocked especially for them. Programming for teens, with teen input, will be possible in the increased meeting spaces.

Can we have music or other materials currently unavailable?

While we cannot guarantee to provide every materials and service available anywhere while operating five times the library space and paying for three new buildings on a bit less than three times the money, we will be able immediately to have some standard services not now available and to eventually offer a much wider variety of collections and services than we now provide. Music could certainly be an early new collection item.

Will bookmobile service continue?

Christian County Library will continue to provide services to citizens at schools, senior housing, community stops and similar locations. Depending on needs, usage and library income, that service may be through the current delivery van or a different means of seeing that the library delivers materials and services to groups of residents who cannot easily visit the library in person.

How many people will work for the library?

Currently the facilities in Ozark and Clever employ twenty people who work the equivalent of twelve full-time staff.

After operations begin, the West County, Central and East County libraries have a projected staff of 48 to 50 people who work the equivalent of an estimated twenty-eight to thirty full-time staff.

What new services will be offered?

Most residents will find nearby libraries an exciting convenience. All facilities will have the single most requested feature, a drive up window. People with small children, mobility difficulties, or limited time may pick up materials which they know are waiting, making that

library visit as quick as a bank deposit or fast food order. Larger and additional meeting rooms and a computer lab will allow additional programs. Small conference and study rooms will be provided. The central library will have a young adult section. There will be more public use computers. Wireless access will be provided. Collections we already own but have not been able to shelve will become accessible. We can consider new collections. Much of the added funds will be required to paying for three buildings and staff, stocking and operate five times the library space on less than three times the income. However, Christian County Library, like public libraries everywhere, has always been adept at getting the best value for taxpayer money and finding ways to provide library customers the materials and services they want and need.

How were locations chosen?

In over six years of mail and telephone surveys, focus groups, panel discussions, and consultants, a variety of scenarios for possible branches were developed. When presented to citizens in a survey, 77% preferred the one large central library and small east county and west county branches over the options of only medium libraries in Ozark and Nixa; or both medium libraries in Ozark and Nixa and small east county and west county branches. Serving all county residents was a primary consideration. The most expensive option, in construction also but especially in future operating costs, was the four facility option.

What will the libraries cost?

The estimated cost for land, construction, professional fees, furniture, equipment and landscaping for the branches is \$1,500,000 each and for the central library \$8,000,000, for a total of \$11,000,000 for all locations. That does not include beginning or added costs of collections such as books, DVD, and audio materials. But, as Certificates of Participation are sold, the saved money spent on land and preliminary fees will be returned to the library and be available for opening day collections.

Will any of the cost be paid from private funds?

We will seek gifts and grants to enhance what the tax-paid new sites and contents and to reduce the debt quicker to allow increased operating funds to be available sooner

Was there an offer for Christian County residents to use the Springfield-Greene County Library facilities, collections, and services?

The adjoining county library districts began in 2005 searching for a fair, affordable, and equitable means to extend cooperation between the districts directly to the public. That year, of 2,844 non-resident cardholders whom Springfield-Greene County allowed to purchase access to their services, the vast majority were Christian County residents. By 2009, total purchasers had dropped to 2,115. Of those, 1,779 were Christian County residents. Library privileges extended to household included 3,395 individuals or about 4.5% of Christian County residents. The \$88,950 income these Christian County residents provided with their non-resident fees came to nearly three-fourths of one percent of SGCL's income and a bit over eleven percent of Christian County's tax income.

Springfield-Greene County, Christian County and other area library districts have a long history of cooperating in many different efforts from staff training, cooperative buying and library materials processing through the Consortium of Ozarks Libraries – COOL. Springfield-Greene County Library and Christian County Library were the original members in 1998 of COOL. The server which houses the public access catalogs, circulation services, and cataloging and classification among other library automation services for seven county library and several special libraries is at The Library Center. COOL personnel and automation expenses are paid by consortium members according to their individual use of services. It's a cost-effective arrangement which serves residents of this part of the state very well.

However, direct to public services are not so easily pro-rated and budgeted, particularly among districts whose vastly different levels of support provides very different abilities to provide facilities and staff to develop and present collections and programs. Trustees of each district are obligated to provide library services for the citizens whose voted support allows the existence of that district's facilities, collections, staff, and programs.

Investigation quickly verified that Christian County Library district's funding was inadequate to provide for Christian County residents, share on a similar level with Greene County residents, or pay an appropriate amount for allowing Christian County residents access to the much better supported Springfield-Greene County Library system. The Finance and Personnel Committee of the Springfield-Greene county Library Board of Trustees determined it was not feasible to investigate or talk further about any direct to public sharing between the districts until after Christian County citizens approved at least an average state support of twenty-five cents per hundred dollar valuation. Whether any talks might commence after a successful election or if catching up from decades of under-funding will be a great enough challenge for a long time was not discussed in the campaign as that is currently not an option. Ironically, the fact that the districts DID investigate and found infeasible any direct to public cooperation resulted in rumors that the investigation did not occur or that offers were rejected.

Quotes from Minutes, thanks to Springfield-Greene County Library staff:
Monday, March 19, 2007, at The Library Center

The Finance and Personnel Committee will meet with the Christian County Library Board at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, at the Library Center to discuss the feasibility of contracting services for patrons in Christian County. The Christian County Library is doing a master plan in anticipation of a tax levy election later this year or next year. The Committee requested information on the cost of current Greene County Library services to determine an approximate amount that would need to be charged if the Library Board entered into a contract with the Christian County Library.

Monday, July 16, 2007, at The Library Center

The Christian County Library is doing a master plan in anticipation of a tax levy election. The Finance and Personnel Committee discussed how to calculate costs for services using circulation,

reference and computer usage. It was the consensus of the committee to discuss collaborations with Christian County after their levy and level of library services is increased.

Monday, September 17, 2007, at The Library Center

Christian County Library will contract with Opinion Research Specialists to conduct a survey with the residents of Christian County to see if they will support a tax levy increase for library services. The Christian County Library wants to know what lending arrangements Springfield-Greene County Library will make if they get their levy increases. The Finance and Personnel Committee does not want to look at arrangements that will put stress on Greene County patrons or the library staff. It was the consensus of the Finance and Personnel Committee to table reviewing lending options until after Christian County successfully passes a library levy increase.

Monday, June 16, 2008, at The Library Center

The Committee reviewed the goals relating to Finance and Personnel. It was the consensus of the Finance and Personnel Committee to remove the following priorities from the list:

Fee structure for providing services to non-residents. Status: This project is on hold since Christian County Library did not pursue a tax levy campaign.

How many Christian County residents choose to purchase services from SGCL?

Since January 1, 2008, SGCL has been paid non-resident fees from 4,930 people in families listing a Christian County residence. That represents approximately 6.5% of the population.

Why not have a combined college-public library?

Early in the improved public library services planning process, Christian County Library and the Ozarks Technical College investigated the possibility of sharing some facilities or services. Like many previous public and academic libraries in similar studies, each discovered too many compromises for either partner to provide their clients with the high level of current and future services they request and deserve. Some pairs have operated such partnerships with varying degrees of mutual satisfaction and for varying lengths of time. All working public-academic library partnerships we discovered were a single branch of many facilities operated by that library district, not the only public facility easily available to a large segment of the district's residents. Conflicting space, funding, staffing, collection development, and governance have been on-going challenges for even the most successful and long-lived of these efforts. Some public library funding such as the e-rate which reduces the cost of the internet connection through MoreNet and the telephone, fax and cell service; and the Library Services and Technology Act LSTA federal grants administered through the Missouri State Library specifically eliminates from the definition of public libraries any facility not specifically paid and operated by a library district but instead under the jurisdiction of a different organization such as

a school, college, church or club. Therefore, the advantages and assistance, both financial and administrative such as shared databases, and staff training would be lost in a college-public facility. The added costs could be charged to the people of the district, but the invaluable assistance and guidance such as training, administrative updates, and guidance could not probably be replaced at any price.

What about repairing, remodeling and enlarging the existing location?

The 1972 building replaced the crowded, deteriorated original 1956 library in a former livery stable just off the Ozark square. It greatly improved library service to the then 15,000 county residents. In 2002, surveys, focus groups, panel discussions and consultants began to study ways to update and improve library services for the population now estimated at 75,000. Reusing the current building would disrupt library services for at least two years as the two story addition was built, then the original structure gutted and rebuilt. Upgrading the 1972 building, without an increase in funding, would consume all savings to create a larger building which the district could not then afford to operate. The limitations of the existing building would complicate a library design. An adequate building size, necessary parking, and setbacks to comply with code to allow an occupancy permit could not fit on the current lot. The county library's location would still not be centrally located to serve Ozark, Highlandville, Selmore, McCracken, Fremont Hills, and Nixa, requiring a separate, equal building to serve some locations. County citizens clearly preferred improvement for all. Seventy-seven percent of residents in surveys preferred the three-library option over the two library or the most expensive four library options which might have included a renovation of the 1972 building. Convenience, fairness and costs are primary reasons for residents' decision.

What will become of the 4th Avenue in Ozark property?

Once the Central Library is operating, the current library property will be sold and the money applied to the costs of new facilities.

Isn't renovating an existing structure more cost effective than building a new one?

Springfield-Greene County Library, Lebanon-Laclede Library and others' success with turning abandoned buildings into fabulous libraries at bargain rates have created an expectation that those opportunities and results are easy, common or even universally available. The simple truth is that each situation is unique. No economically transformable structure in the target location was found for the three libraries needed for Christian County Library district. Instead, the existing structures available for lease, not sale, were significantly more expensive for a smaller single location than all three combined locations to bring library services more conveniently to the public. In fact, leasing them would have made also operating a library unaffordable even at the increased tax rate and prevented ever serving the county as a whole with another substantial tax increase..

Will citizens have a chance to ask questions?

In the fall 2009 campaign, five Public Forums with the architects, attorneys, LIFE campaign committee, underwriters, Board of Trustees, staff members, Friends of the Library and others involved in the planning and preparation process available for Q and A were held. They were well publicized, conveniently located at the Clever Public High School Library; the O C (Ozark's new community center); The Center (Nixa's community Center); Sparta City Hall; and the Nixa Super 8. They were scheduled with public convenience as the main consideration from 6:00 to 7:30 on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The architectural boards were available for viewing. Every question posed was answered to the best collective ability of all involved professionals.

During the current campaign, forums are scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, February 22 at Highlandville City Hall, 7 p.m. Monday, March 22 at the Empire Bank in Nixa and 7 p.m. Monday night March 29, 2010 at the OC in Ozark.

Many organizations will include speakers on the library issue among their programs. The library will have a booth at NIXPO on Saturday, March 27 from 9 to 3. Supporters will be available during the spring Friends of the Library booksale all day March 13 and March 20 and in the afternoons March 15 through March 19.

The public blog on which this FAQ pdf appears encourages questions. The FAQ has been repeatedly updated to include every single question asked at a forum, sent in e-mails or posed in person or by telephone or blog response. Though viewing has been limited, we will continue to offer this means for anyone who has a question and internet to locate the answer at their convenience.

The post election survey revealed that only newspapers reached more than half the voters, with family and friends being the next most common source of information. Nearly half the voters made up their mind before hearing or seeing anything about the proposal.

Questions continue to be solicited and answered. Methods of getting and answering them may change as we try different things. The campaign committee welcomes suggestions on reaching citizens, connecting with organizations, and paying for the efforts.

PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Who has worked on this project so far?

Hundreds of Christian County citizens participated in mail and telephone surveys and community forums. The State of Missouri and the Missouri State Library provided training in LibrisDesign which was used to project needs and costs of future libraries and, via planning grants, helped to produce a strategic plan. A number of professionals and private citizens contributed enormously. Dr. Mark Ellickson of Opinion Research Specialists arranged, conducted, analyzed and reported on public surveys and forums. Carol Grimes served as consultant to create several scenarios for improved libraries in Christian County. A panel including Springfield-Greene County Library District's planning coordinator, Carol Grimes; Missouri Department of Transportation's Burt Pitchford; Delores Lamb and Robert Wilslef with

the City of Ozark; Sam Proffer, Christian County Building Inspector; Bob Atchley of Christian County Planning & Zoning; Travis Cossey with the City of Nixa; Clayton Hines of Shaffer & Hines, Inc., Engineers; Dr. Kevin Patterson from Ozark Schools; Lance Renner with Ozarks Technical College; Ted Thornton, rural Ozark resident; and Katie Schear, banker and Billings resident gave a wealth of knowledge, experience and advice on the library's situation and future possibilities. Thom G. Field of Neale and Newman actively worked with the board and staff on site acquisition as well as providing legal services for contracts on the land and with other professionals hired thus far. The owners of the three pieces of property where libraries are proposed to be built each sold well-located land below appraised market value. We very much appreciate Todd Hensley and the People's Bank of Clever, Scott and Naomi Bilyeu of Ozark and Lindel R. Lipes of Sparta who individually and collectively provided sites where citizens' vision of better county libraries can become a reality. Staffs at the cities of Clever, Ozark and Sparta and Christian County worked hard to perfect the deeds, get building sites properly approved, and provide invaluable help in advisory and cooperative capacities. The library's design contract is with Michael Sapp of Sapp Design Associates, Architects. James Stufflebeam and Eric Street are primary architects on the projects. Fred Palmerton with Palmerton and Parrish, Inc. has provided geotechnical engineering services. Jared Rasmussen with Olsson Associates has conducted and reported on civil engineering at the proposed library sites and is providing a variety of engineering studies in preparation for the construction documents which potential contractors will use to bid on work. Boundary and topographical surveys of the sites were conducted by Aaron Austin of Austin Land Surveying, LLC. National Valuation Services of Springfield, Inc. provided property assessments. Carson Elliff with Yates, Mauck, Bohrer, Elliff & Fels, P. C., is bond counsel for the library. Julie Portman and Richard Han, Investment Bankers with Edward Jones are Underwriters of record with Edward Jones personnel in Christian County, including Patrick Morrison, providing on-going contacts here. Upon voter approval, engineering and interior design services are also arranged. Moral support and encouragement have been provided by the Christian County Commission, current and past members of the Board of Trustees of the Christian County Library; Friends of the Christian County Library; Friends of Clever Public Library; Jennifer McFall, Katie Schear, Katy Pattison and others on the SUCCEED group; Dr. Hal Higdon, Dr. Stephen Biermann and other Ozarks Technical Community College personnel; LIFE – Library Improvements For Everyone Campaign committee, and most especially, the citizens of Christian County who are ready for the sort of convenient, modern library facilities and services which citizens of similar Missouri library districts have chosen for themselves.

Who are Christian County Library Trustees & How Are They Appointed?

Who are the trustees: <http://christiancounty.lib.mo.us/library/board.html>

What do by-laws say about nominees: <http://christiancounty.lib.mo.us/library/policies.html> -

See Board By-Laws

What does Missouri Law say about wording for ballot: Chapter 182-010 of Missouri Revised Statutes

What does Missouri law say about appointments for trustees of County Library Districts: Chapter 182-050 of Missouri Revised Statutes

Note, that like most library districts, the Christian County Library Board of Trustees By-Laws have added to the statutes the requirement for representation to cover all the county.

Appointments are requested from the part of the county for which the vacancy occurs.

CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

Who will run the campaign?

A campaign committee has been formed. Library Improvements For Everyone – LIFE may be reached at PO Box 11, Ozark MO 65721. Their website is cclibrarylife.wordpress.com. E-mail them at libraryimprovementsforeveryone@gmail.com. Time and place of meetings will be on their website and publicized through many media calendars as well as calendars on city, county, and organizational websites. Officers elected at a meeting, Tuesday, February 2, 2010, in the Netzer Room, Christian County Library are: President, Patty Quessenberry; Vice President, in charge of publicity, Loretta Hermann; Secretary, Dianne Richart; Treasurer, Amy Holzschuher-Barham; Assistant Treasurer, Elizabeth Barns; and Webmaster, Melissa Lockhart.

What sorts of things may volunteers do?

LIFE volunteers may attend meetings and join committees. Volunteers may request money to run the campaign; brainstorm options with others; publicize meetings and events; prepare campaign materials, work toward and at special events; speak to groups; stuff and address envelopes or address brochures or post cards; assemble yard signs; participate in telephoning voters; deliver posters, flyers and door-hangers; and share library experiences and hopes on-line, in the media and with those they meet.

ELECTION QUESTIONS

How and when should I register to vote?

March 10th is the last day you can register to vote in the April 6 election. You can register at the Christian County Clerk's office, libraries, Nixa Chamber of Commerce, license bureau and several city halls and schools. The complete list is at: <http://www.christiancountymo.gov/voterregistration.htm>

How can I get an absentee ballot?

Earliest date to apply for absentee ballot - Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Latest date to apply other than in person - Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Lastest date to complete absentee ballot at County Clerk's office - Monday, April 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Complete instructions about absentee voting is on the Christian County Clerk's site:

<http://www.christiancountymo.gov/clerk.htm>. The easiest way is to visit the office, apply for the ballot, complete it and have it notarized all in a single visit.

The Secretary of State's information on absentee ballots:

http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/s_default.asp?id=absentee

Where Do I Vote?

Check your voter registration card for your political township and/or precinct. Using that information, find polling sites on the County Clerk's website:

<http://www.christiancountymo.gov/pollinglocations.htm>

What vote is needed for passage?

A simple majority is required to approve the library funding which will allow construction and operation of the new libraries

AFTER THE ELECTION

How can I bid on construction services?

Construction documents will be distributed in mid to late April by our architects. Send your notice of interest along with your specific areas of interest, skills, qualifications and services to Sapp Design, 3750 S Fremont, Springfield, MO 65804.

What happens if the ballot issue fails?

The library district will continue to do what it has always done – provide the best possible service with available resources. If voters turn down funding for new facilities and the ability to operate them at this time, the library will have to budget for essential maintenance on existing building. And, at a now undetermined future election, the voters will again have an option to approve adequate buildings, more convenient locations and modern library services.

GENERAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING FAQ'S

Why would someone support an added tax in this economy?

Library use increases when people tighten their belts. Bargain seekers use library-provided free entertainment and education, stay closer to home, and discontinue services if they can, including possibly personal internet access. Library computers provide job search training as well as print and on-line job hunts and applications to those stressed by job loss, business slowdowns or economic losses. Trips to local libraries save gas money and vehicle wear. The additional library tax collected, annually about the price of one hardcover book for middle class residents, is quickly recouped and soon surpassed by using even a small portion of available library materials or services. Users of many public libraries, where state, federal and other non-local support decrease during times of greatly increased demand, must choose between improved local support and reduction of services when they are most needed.

Does anyone need a public library now that they have the internet?

Many home internet users lack the internet speed or computer power or capacity to access sites they seek. Others have neither a computer nor internet access. Public libraries offer access equipment, and assistance, free. This is especially important to those with slow or no internet when they need all the government services now available exclusively or primarily on-line such

as change of address, application for any Missouri state government job, most educational loans and scholarships, and unemployment claims. Anyone can say anything on-line. Not all free sites are authoritative or reliable. The sheer volume of information on the internet can be overwhelming. Librarians help sort through it all, and find the information--whether on the internet, through our paid online databases, or out of a book--that meets your needs. Library paid resources significantly increase their computer's value and the quality and accessibility of information as it provides 24/7 information to those with personal high-speed internet. Relying totally on on-line information eliminates access to the still most common information sources of print, audio and video, as well as any information or reading when electronic access isn't working or available.

Why can't I just use any public library instead of supporting a local library?

States, counties, and cities as well as school districts, fire protection districts and library districts, among others, are supported by tax revenue voted on and provided by residents in that district. Neighboring districts may have voted vastly different levels of support. Just as one family cannot access the income or bank account of another family simply because they live next door, residents of one district have no automatic right to the property of a nearby jurisdiction. In Missouri, county libraries are supported by property taxes. Residents and property owners in a district vote the level at which they financially support their local public library. Shoppers and visitors do not contribute to that support. Individual districts may adopt policies to allow non-resident uses that do not restrict access by taxpayers or even allow non-residents to pay for those services for which they do not otherwise contribute. Districts sometimes contract to share certain resources or services. Usual starting points for discussion in such contracts are similar tax rates, support from a mutually higher source such as a state, or equalizing payments from districts which borrow more to districts which lend more.

Can school libraries substitute for public libraries?

School libraries serve the curriculum for the age group served by that school and just within the school district boundaries. It is not their function and rarely even their ability to open to the general public, to provide for ages other than their target group, to provide public library services, to have available or permit use of collections for anyone outside their immediate school family of staff, faculty and students, or to hire staff or have websites or do programming for the general public. Except for limited one-time exceptions for specific individuals, they can neither permit non-school individuals in the building when children are present nor provide for use during non-school day periods. Their well-defined function is as part of a school district, not as part of a library district. They lack budget, collection, space, or staffing to consider taking on the quite different functions of public libraries.

I have enough money to buy the books I read. What does a public library do for me?

Some people can afford the books they read. Libraries also offer free wireless internet access, downloadable media, public meeting rooms, and classes and programs for all ages. They provide copiers, fax machines, and printers. Friendly and knowledgeable librarians make your search for

information simple and quick. Library provided remotely accessible subscription databases give authoritative, current information 24/7 at any internet connection - information not available to residents unless their library provides them those databases. Like good schools, safe streets, active organizations and a sound business environment, libraries enrich communities in ways that reach even non-users and are well worth supporting.

Don't I pay for libraries with my state and federal taxes? Why am I being asked to pay locally?

In most places, public libraries are powerful bargains which local areas chose for themselves. Unlike services which receive substantial sales taxes, user fees, or money returned from state or the federal sources, local Missouri public libraries typically derive over ninety percent of all income from local property tax and the short-term investment of that money in bank accounts and certificates of deposit. The remaining ten percent or less income comes from per capita state aid payments; charges for print-outs, photocopies, late return charges and lost and destroyed materials payment. At times, major grants and gifts reduce that percent. Voter-approved local support pays operating costs such as staffing, materials, utilities, maintenance, insurance, and equipment.

I'm too busy to read. Why would I want a public library?

People driving to work or exercising often enjoy audio books from their library. Library-paid databases supply homework help, hundreds of the most valuable reference books, small engine and auto repair materials, genealogical information, legal forms, periodicals, hobbies and crafts, and much more, anytime at any internet station with just a library card for identification. Organizations use library meeting rooms. Programs for all ages and interests take place at public libraries. Library websites collect and organize the best information on residents' favorite subject. Libraries provide wide-based, unbiased coverage on current topics. Libraries produce informed citizens. Informed citizens are the foundation of the American democracy. Often, someone who does not regularly use library services has a parent, spouse, sibling or child who does.

Aren't libraries only for children?

Libraries offer a wide variety of children's books, media and programs. Of all government services, libraries are the most likely to serve everyone of all ages, interests, skills, education, health, politics, religion and income level. Most public library materials are used by adults. Libraries offer adult programs and classes, such as computer courses, book signings, and more.

Aren't there grants to pay for things like libraries?

Grants often are sought to fund special, occasional library user needs such as technology upgrades, one-time programs or a specific project the funder supports. Competition is brisk, funding is uncertain, and grants are usually one-time rather than on-going income.. A library cannot operate on grant money alone. Utilities, insurance, staffing, maintenance, library collections, databases, and other continuing expenses rely upon a reliable tax revenue funding

source.

Isn't it dangerous to use my laptop or even public computers in a public setting like a library?

Like responsible technology users everywhere, libraries keep firewalls and virus protection and related security installed and current on any library owned desktop and laptop computers. Individual wireless service users need to keep current anti-virus software on their own computers. Just as in your everyday life, knowledge and use of basic security precautions will keep passwords, account and financial details and personal information private. Libraries often have filtering in place to comply with local, state or federal laws and policies. These may prevent access to certain on-line materials.

Isn't the local bookstore all I really need?

Friendly, comfortable modern bookstores offer cozy reading nooks and snack bars. Some include traditional public library services such as story times, summer reading programs, author visits, wi-fi, or copy and fax machines. Modern public libraries typically provide these and more. Most people can neither afford or justify buying every thing they read nor provide space to store them. Libraries lend free the same books, audiobooks, movies, magazines and music bookstores sell. Libraries collect and make available local, out-of-print and rare materials to which bookstores lack access. Libraries provide inter-library loans, digitized local information, free-to-cardholders remotely accessible databases and downloadable media. Bookstores do not. Knowledgeable library staff organize and provide needed information in person and on-line. Libraries anchor communities with meeting rooms, free classes and programs, and equipment such as computers with internet and production software or equipment to make information accessible to those with physical, visual, auditory or other limitations. Company profits are the reason for bookstore existence and services, Community service is the reason for public libraries.

Don't library services hurt business at my bookstore?

Except a few from individual authors or producers, the entire library collection comes from commercial sources, including some retail bookstores. Library users who discover a much-loved book or media at their public library buy personal copies from bookstores and often buy presents at bookstores. Readers born and fostered in schools and libraries are bookstores' major customers. Without public libraries, bookstores like publishers would be fewer, smaller and poorer.