

Public Vote for Rural County Residents: Continue Library Services & Bookmobile in Platte County?

BALLOT QUESTION

"Shall Platte County, Nebraska tax the people living outside the city limits of Columbus, Nebraska and living outside the city limits of Humphrey, Nebraska a maximum tax of \$765,000 for a library service contract."

(Spread over 3 years: \$155,000+\$300,000+\$310,000)

"By voting yes you agree to a maximum tax of \$765,000, spread over the next 3 years."

(A YES VOTE WILL RETAIN THE PRESENT FREE LIBRARY ACCESS AND BOOKMOBILE SERVICES.)

"By voting no you do not agree to a maximum tax of \$765,000."

(A NO VOTE WILL END FREE LIBRARY ACCESS AND BOOKMOBILE SERVICES FOR RURAL PLATTE COUNTY RESIDENTS.)

COUNTY/CITY CONTRACT

The Platte County Board of Supervisors recently approved a 3-year contract with the City of Columbus to continue the current library services to residents living outside the cities of Columbus and Humphrey. This contract provides walk-in and online access to the Columbus Public Library and the Bookmobile.

Year 1 of the contract for \$155,000 has already been approved by the Board.

Year 2 (maximum of \$300,000) and Year 3 (maximum of \$310,000) will be decided by the vote of Platte County residents living outside of Columbus and Humphrey city limits.

If approved by voters, the contract stipulates payment during Years 2 & 3 be equal to actual expenses, based on percentage of use, not to exceed the amounts listed above.

EXPENSE EXPLANATION

Based on average expenses for the last 6 years, county residents have not paid their fair share of library service expenses. The City of Columbus subsidized the difference.

Calculation based on average annual expenses 2014-2019 (no costs of maintaining building/utilities):

Directly Tracked Bookmobile Expenses \$79,123

City Library Expenditures \$1,075,863 x

Percent of County Walk-In Usage 19% = Expense of County Walk-In Usage \$204,414

AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENSE (DIRECT BOOKMOBILE + LIBRARY ACCESS)= \$283,537

The Bookmobile visits 13 schools during the school year and 22 towns and neighborhoods in the summer.



Questions?

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