

Colorado Library Issues Face the Voters

Six Colorado public libraries had mill levy referenda and bond issue questions before the voters November 6, 2007. Three were successful. Denver Public Library, East Morgan Library District in Brush, and Spanish Peaks Library District in Walsenburg passed their ballot issues with voter support ranging from 60% to 75% of ballots cast. Voters defeated ballot issues for two libraries, Cañon City Public Library and Douglas County Libraries. Berthoud Public Library, currently a municipal library, had mixed results with voters approving the formation of the library district and an amendment to seek TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) limit exemptions, but voting down the library district's initial 2.4 mill levy question for operating expenses. Without this approval, the district cannot be formed. The vote currently is tied and a decision on a recount is pending.

Results from November 6, 2007 Election

Library	Ballot Issue	Yes	No	%
Denver Public Library	Referred Question 1C: Library System Facilities Bonds, \$51.9 million.	50,678	33,616	60/40
East Morgan Library District / Brush	Ballot Issue 6A: Operating expenses mill levy increase to 2 mills from 1.5 mills (1980 initial mill levy).	827	274	75/25
Spanish Peaks Library District / Walsenburg	Ballot Issue 2A: Bond issue for \$1.75 million for renovation of old Walsenburg High School which will be the new library facility.	911	615	60/40
Cañon City Public Library	Referendum 2A: Bond issue, increase of city taxes, (\$1.5 million) and sales/use tax of .5% for plaza, landscaping, and renovation of Carnegie Library.	1,215	2,561	32/68
Douglas County Libraries (District)	Mill levy increase for operating expenses of 1.25 mills from 4.0 mills.	21,103	21,316	50/50
Berthoud Public Library	Referendum 5B: Formation of library district.	1517	804	65/35
	Referendum 5C: Initial library district operating expenses mill levy of 2.4 mills.	1165	1165	50/50
	Referendum 5D: TABOR language.	1332	986	57/43