



CHALLENGE

Adams County is experiencing exponential growth, causing capacity issues at the library. The Anythink board and leadership know that to sustain current levels of service and fully implement their goals, additional funding is necessary.

BALLOT PROPOSAL

The Anythink Board of Trustees has referred a ballot measure for additional funding that would expand opportunities for children and families in Adams County. This would take the form of additional programming for kids and teens, expanded access to technology and computer help for those who need it, expanded service hours, and new facilities to help keep up with the tremendous growth happening in Adams County. On Aug. 15, 2018, the Anythink Board of Trustees [unanimously voted to approve this ballot measure](#).

WHAT IS PROPOSAL 6A?

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Adams County voters will consider a ballot proposal to increase funding for Anythink libraries by 2.2 mill, an additional \$11.6 million in operating funds for the library in 2019. If passed, the proposal would increase programs for kids and families, expand access to technology classes and resources, expand hours at many locations, and build additional facilities to keep up with the tremendous growth in Adams County.

Here is what the ballot will say:

BALLOT ISSUE NO. 6A

Shall Anythink, also known as Rangeview Library District, serving Thornton, Northglenn, Commerce City, Brighton, Perl Mack area, Bennett and unincorporated Adams County taxes be increased 11.6 million dollars in 2019, and by whatever amount is raised annually thereafter by an additional mill levy not to exceed 2.2 mills to be used to operate and expand library facilities and to improve library services which may include:

Expanding library programs for kids, teens, families, adults and seniors, including literacy programs, after school arts and science programs, and mentorship opportunities;

Expanding internet access, technology programs, online skills training, career coaching and development, and lifelong- learning classes;

Purchasing additional books, e-books, DVDs, and CDs;

Expanding library hours and science and technology learning opportunities;

Constructing new libraries and maintaining existing facilities to meet the needs of Adams County's growing community

And any other uses permitted by law; and shall the district be authorized to collect, retain and spend all revenues generated from the mill levy increase, as a voter-approved revenue and spending change and an exception to any statutory limits, including section 29-1-301, C.R.S. and any constitutional limits, including Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, that would otherwise apply?

Why is the library proposing this increase?

The library is currently experiencing capacity issues, with waitlists for programs, services and materials. Additionally, many branches have limited hours that can't meet the busy schedules of those in the community. The library system needs additional funding to sustain its current level of service and expand its capacity to keep pace with rapid population growth, and to serve residents across Adams County, including newly developed areas.

If passed:

- More library programs for kids, teens and adults at all branches
- Extended hours at most branches
- Expanded internet access, computers, technology programs and skills training
- More books, E-books, DVDs and CDs at all branches
- Maintaining existing branches and building at least two new branches

If the proposal does not pass:

- No new libraries
- No increase in hours of operation
- Growing waitlists for programs, meeting rooms and requests on books, ebooks, DVDs, etc.

How is the library currently used?

- 416,083 people live in Anythink's service area, an increase of over 104,000 since 2007
- 1,134,317 people visited Anythink's seven locations in 2017
- 2,241,289 books, DVDs and CDs were checked out
- 379,718 e-books, music and movies were downloaded
- 16,956,993 minutes were spent by users on public computers
- 64,997 people attended library programs & events

PRO: Why would people support this proposal?

- Give kids the educational support they need with more books, materials and learning programs.

- Expand opportunities for people from all walks of life by increasing access to technology and job training.
- Improve quality of life for families and community with expanded hours and two additional libraries.

CON: Why would people not support this proposal?

- Property taxes would increase.
- Funding competes with other entities.
- The library is fine just the way it is.