

# FACTS 2009 Ballot Question LIBRARY GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

## What this means to you...

This November, residents will be asked to vote on a proposal to create a General Improvement District within Aurora providing dedicated funding for the Aurora Public Library System. This district does not create another layer of government.

If passed the district would have the authority to establish an annual property tax mill levy to solely fund library services. The initial tax levy would cost homeowners approximately \$5.69 per month for a home with a market value of \$200,000. The Aurora public library system is currently funded through the city's general fund along with most other city services like Police, Fire, and Streets. The majority of the general fund's revenue comes from sales taxes. City sales tax revenues over the last seven years have not kept pace with the increased cost to deliver basic city services. Therefore, library funding has decreased steadily over the past seven years as necessary cost reductions were made to balance the city budget.

The proposed property tax would provide a source of revenue dedicated solely to libraries. These funds would not be subject to reductions to balance the city budget. The Aurora public library system currently ranks in the lower third among Front Range library systems in hours, and last in spending on library materials. Most Front Range residents outside of Aurora and Denver are served by library districts that have dedicated property tax funding.

Aurora is facing a significant projected budget shortfall in 2010. Without this additional funding, the city may consider additional reductions in hours and the closure of some library branches. Passage of this initiative would result in restoration of all library reductions that have occurred over the past seven years and allow for additional services. Many of these improvements would upgrade library funding for services in Aurora to levels enjoyed by most other Front Range library patrons.

### Specifically, some of the improvements that would be seen include:

#### ADDITIONAL LIBRARY HOURS

An additional 154 hours per week, over current hours, would be added across the library system.

Central Library	8.0
Hoffman Height Library	24.5
Martin Luther King Jr.	20.0
Chambers Plaza Library	38.0
Mission Viejo Library	19.5
Iliff Square Library	22.0
Tallyn's Reach Library	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>154.0</b>

#### EXPANDED LIBRARY SPACE

5,000 square feet will be added to current library space.

#### MORE BOOKS, CDS, DVDS, REFERENCE MATERIALS

Increased materials funding (books, CDs, DVDs, reference materials and online database resources) to Aurora.

Call 303-739-6594 for more information.

**Aurora libraries will likely** see additional significant reductions in service, including shorter hours and complete closure of some branches if the Library General Improvement District is not approved.

**If approved by voters,** this would be the first tax increase for operations in Aurora in 16 years.

#### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IF PASSED:

- Additional library hours
- Expanded library space
- More books, CDs, DVDs, and reference materials
- All libraries remain open

The initial GID tax levy is anticipated to be 4.29 mills which equates to about \$5.69 per month for a home with a market value of \$200,000. The Library General Improvement District would have the authority to set an annual property tax mill levy to generate up to \$12,514,000, adjusted for inflation, to fully fund library services.

**AURORA, COLORADO**