

Talking Points: Building a Stronger Partnership for Colusa County Libraries

Why Libraries Matter

Libraries are one of the few public services that benefit residents at every stage of life. From early literacy and homework help to workforce development, internet access, lifelong learning, and community gathering spaces, libraries strengthen education, economic opportunity, and quality of life throughout Colusa County.

Our Library Need Help

Due to state funding cuts, the library permanently lost \$500,000 in annual funding, creating a structural budget gap.

The County has committed to maintaining library service despite significant financial challenges.

This initiative recognizes the county's commitment and seeks to find a new revenue source to support the library to preserve library services and help the county meet its many fiscal priorities.

Why a Dedicated Funding Source Makes Sense

The purpose of this initiative is to provide stable, predictable funding that allows the library to plan for the future instead of responding to year-to-year budget uncertainty.

Dedicated local funding helps protect library services while allowing the County to continue meeting its many other obligations.

Preserving the County Partnership

This initiative was intentionally written to preserve the County's ongoing role.

The County would continue to own and maintain all library buildings and remain responsible for major capital improvements. The County must continue to provide a base level of General Fund support. In a fiscal emergency, the County could reduce its General Fund commitment to the library on a one-time basis.

A Shared Investment

The required County contribution represents approximately **2% of the County's General Fund budget**, ensuring the County remains an active partner in supporting library services. The community and the County would each continue investing in the library together.

How This Helps the County

Without a dedicated funding source, restoring library staffing and services would require the County to bear full financial responsibility.

This initiative creates a partnership in which local taxpayers provide dedicated library funding while the County continues its base contribution but allows for flexibility in the case of a fiscal emergency. Rather than shifting responsibility to the County, this measure shares responsibility between the community and the County.

Closing Message

The community has an opportunity to become an equal partner to preserve the library for future generations. This measure isn't asking the County to do more. It's asking the community to become a partner in protecting one of our most valuable public services.