

Concerns about Library Proposed Ballot Measure

COMMISSIONER  
GOLD

After reaching out to the County librarians and getting a number of emails from citizens on this proposed ballot measure I have the following concerns:

1. The statement about “most residents having electronic access from their home to access services that are traditionally provided by a library is not entirely accurate according to the data that was provided by every County library.
  - a. All libraries show that there are about 10 times as many physical books checked out than electronic books checked out.
  - b. A total of 292,251 patrons visited the libraries in 2018-19
  - c. Computer and Wifi use is substantial
2. Libraries have services that go well beyond checking out books. Some of those services include:
  - a. Programs, outreach, and services for children, teens, and adults
  - b. Educational and cultural programs for all ages
  - c. Early literacy programming
  - d. Technology training
  - e. Resources for job seekers and entrepreneurs
  - f. Investment in physical materials to serve all users
  - g. Provide meeting spaces for dedicated public programs
3. Our libraries collaborate and share costs in many ways (costs are shared based on the population of the districts and sometimes fully paid for entirely by the larger districts). Some of those shared costs include:
  - a. Share an online catalog and management system
  - b. Share cost of a courier system
  - c. Share costs of technical support
  - d. Bulk book purchasing discounts
4. By OR law the same amount of tax revenue has to be produced by the consolidation of districts and this means that some residents will end up paying a higher tax rate than they would have without consolidation.
5. GB Library has a loan for \$400K and Chetco has a large endowment fund of over a million dollars. There are potential problems in coming up with an equitable distribution funds.