

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY LIBRARY BOND ISSUE

The League of Women Voters of La Plata County supports Referred Measure 2A, the City of Durango Ballot Library Question referred to City of Durango voters in the November 2006 election to authorize issuance of bonds for the construction of the new library facility.

The substance of the ballot question is:

- To increase the debt of the City of Durango by \$15,890,000, with a maximum repayment cost of \$26,305,900, through the issuance of bonds
- To repay the debt with an existing revenue stream consisting of 50% of the . cent sales and use tax already approved by voters in April, 2005 without imposing new taxes or tax rate increases (this tax, approved by voters in April, 2005, has associated with it a sunset clause and will terminate on December 31, 2026)
- To use the raised funds to acquire the old Mercy Hospital site, and to construct, install and equip the new library facility, including costs associated with site improvements.

Paragraphs 3-5 of the ballot question refer to the process which must be followed by a government entity in order to issue bonds, in this case for the principal amount of \$15,890,000, and an interest rate that would result in a repayment amount of no more than \$26,305,900 upon bond maturity or sooner.

Concerning the site acquisition and construction of the new library facility, the League of Women Voters of La Plata County strongly urges the City of Durango to endorse and abide by the following criteria:

1. Average size and capacity of the new library facility through the year 2030 will meet or exceed the 50th percentile as defined by the official 2005 Colorado Public Library Standards*, recognizing that the Durango Library must serve all of La Plata County;
2. Design of the infrastructure and facility will be sufficiently flexible to allow expansion as needs dictate, and resources become available;
3. Construction and maintenance of the new library facility will comply with the LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating standards concerning energy and environmental design;
4. The new library facilities will accommodate a flexible and combined library program/public meeting space sufficient for a minimum audience of 200 people.

*www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Standards/Index.htm

**www.nrdc.org/buildinggreen/leed.asp

This position was adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting, May 11, 2007.