

## Missoula Library Bond Support Letter

Dear Board of County Commissioners –

Missoula County needs a new public library. We, the undersigned **278** Missoula County residents from all walks of life, are writing to request that you place a measure on the November 2016 ballot asking voter approval for \$30 million of general obligation bonds to pay for the new library. We fully support the resolution passed by the library Board of Trustees on March 23rd requesting the bonds be issued.

Our local library, the main branch of an 8-branch countywide system, is Montana's busiest library. With an average of nearly 2,000 unique visitors daily, our library served 613,600 visitors last year (500,000 more people than attended Grizzly football games). The library has issued 72,700 library card holders representing 65% of all county residents, who borrowed 2,163,359 items in 2015.

This activity occurs in a 42-year-old building that originally was intended to last just 30 years. The condition of the building has deteriorated substantially, and ever more costly repairs are required to maintain it. For example, the boilers leak. After they are turned off for the summer, regulations will prohibit the library from re-firing these units in the fall until \$10,000 in repairs are made. Bathroom plumbing also leaks, and recently the library was forced to make expensive emergency repairs to the plumbing to prevent water damage to the computer labs. In short, our public library has aged, and it's time to replace it.

Our public library is at capacity and no longer meets the many needs of our community. Demand for community meeting space exceeds meeting room availability. For every book the library wants to add to its collection, another book must be removed from the shelves. A new library would improve access to vital resources for all Missoula County residents– from kids to seniors to people attending meetings to folks who don't otherwise have access to computers or public programs.

Our local library Board of Trustees, together with a group of dedicated citizens, has spent the last two years working on plans for a new library. A major component of these plans has focused on better service to our children. The new library will partner with three local Missoula nonprofits: University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area, the Children's Museum Missoula and Missoula Community Access TV (MCAT). This will create a one-stop shop where kids will be able to participate in a variety of stimulating programs without paying separate entrance fees. Also, with a new library, our pre-school children will benefit from a rich array of literacy programs. With more space for kids and books, library staff and volunteers will help Missoula's youngest learn to read and prepare for school. Reading skills acquired early are crucial to academic success and to later success as a citizen. MCAT, spectrUM and the Children's Museum will be responsible for paying the costs of their exhibits and equipment and their share of the operational costs of the building. Bond proceeds will be used only to pay the cost of Library's share of the building. Costs of the building in excess of the bonds will be paid from private fundraising and grants.

The library Board of Trustees has been proactive in devising a plan to continue library operations during construction. Land has been secured for the new building one block east of the library's current location; the existing library will be able to remain open during construction without cutting hours of operation.

We encourage you to carefully consider this plan, and we urge you to place a library bond before voters in November. At a cost of approximately \$2.34 per month on a \$200,000 home, a new, expanded, modern public library will provide tremendous value to the county. We believe you will agree now is the time for Missoula County to build a new public library which will benefit all of us for decades to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Jon Aliri**  
CEO  
The Bookstore at U of Montana

**Elizabeth Ametsbichler**  
Professor  
University of Montana

**Catherine Anderson**  
Kennel Tech  
Animeals

**Kim Anderson McMahon**  
Director of Programs & Grants  
Humanities Montana

**Cynthia Aten**  
MD

**Rod Austin**

**Chris Badgley**

**Joel Baird**  
General Manager  
Missoula Community Access TV

**Sharon Barrett**

**Dick Barrett**

**Diana Bauer**  
Professional Musician/Teacher  
Piano/Voice Studio Owner

**Tim Bechtold**

**Jean Ellen Belangie-Nye**  
Owner  
Nye Imagery, Ltd.

**Diane Benjamin**  
**Bryce Bennett**  
Representative

**Emily Bentley**  
City Council Ward 3

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Missoula County Auditor  
Missoula County

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**Lisa Blank**

**Tom Boone**  
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Boone Karlberg PC

**Ann Boone**

**Mary Boschert-Brannin**

**Rika Botzet**  
Accountant  
Self employed

**Ed Brannin**  
Retired

**Mary kay Breslin**  
RN

**Lee Brown**  
Teacher  
Hellgate High School

**Lynda Brown**  
Conduktant  
Lynda Brown HR Consulting

**James Burchfield**  
Retired  
UM College of Forestry and  
Conservation

**Kathleen Cain**  
Retired teacher

**Caroline Campbell**  
Library Technician  
Missoula Public Library

**Charlene Carey**  
Artistic director  
Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre

**Donald Carey**  
Professor emeritus  
University of Montana

**Susanne Caro**  
Government Information  
Librarian

**Karen Carreno**

**Melanie Charlson**  
President  
Missoula Education Association

**Nick Checota**  
Owner  
The Top Hat and The Wilma

**Heather Cheney**  
Teacher  
MCPS

**Alyssa Chervenka**  
Student at the University of  
Montana

**Jody Chritton**  
Teacher

**Amy Cilimburg**  
Director  
Climate Smart Missoula

**Bradley Clough**  
Professor  
The University of Montana

**Sneed Collard**

Author

**Phil Condon**

Writer/Professor  
University of Montana

**Nancy Cook**

Professor of English  
University of Montana

**Mary Cote**

Retired Teacher

**Rory Cowie**

Faculty  
University of Montana

**Randy Cox****Lou Ann Crowley**

Volunteer Coordinator  
Home Health & Hospice of  
Montana

**Joshua Daidone**

Library Assistant  
Missoula Public Library

**Richard and Alice DAiley**

Retired

**Frank D'Angelo**

Senior Vice President, Financial  
Advisor  
D.A. Davidson & Co.

**Robert Deaton**

Professor Emeritus, UM

**Kimberly Degryse**

Digital operations coordinator  
Providence health & services

**Gina DeMers**

Certified First Assistant Surgical  
Technician  
Providence St. Patrick Hospital

**Steven DeMers**

Retired  
Stimpson Lumber and Dailys  
Meats

**Kara DeMers****Bryan Di Salvatore**

Writer/editor  
self-employed

**Dave Dickson**

Wildlife technician  
MTFWP

**Mary Dickson****Brian Doyle****Marjorie Doyle**

Retired librarian  
N/A

**Dan Doyle**

Professor  
University of Montana

**Patrick Duffy**

Community Volunteer

**Elizabeth Dye**

Realtor Broker  
Portico Real Estate

**Julie Edwards****Steve Edwards**

**Ken Egan**  
Executive Director  
Humanities Montana

**Bonney Eken**

Retired

**Mae Nan Ellingson**

Retired

**Douglas Emlen**

Professor and author  
The University of Montana

**Clara Erickson****Kimberly Everingham**

OD  
Rocky Mountain Eye

**Eamon Fahey**

COO

The Bookstore at the Univ. of  
Montana

**Sara Fisher**

Counselor  
Youth homes

**Charles Fitts****Maureen Fleming**

Retired

**Gwen Florio**

Author

**Kathy Flynn**

Social worker  
Community Medicak Center

**Laura Fox****Zach Franz****Desiree Funston**

Reference Librarian  
Missoula Public Library

**Mark Gahagan**

Retired Rural Mail Carrier  
US Postal Service

**Pamela Gardiner**

Life coach and writer  
Wellbuddies Coaching

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Campaign Coordinator  
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**Sheila Getty**

Business owner  
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**Lyle Geurts**

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**Karen Gonzales**  
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**Henrietta Goodman**  
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**Elke Govertsen**  
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Mamalode Magazine

**Nancy and Tom Graves**  
Retired teachers

**Linette Greene**  
Librarian

**Jan Guffin**

**Gail Gutsche**  
Non-Profit manager

**Doosy Habbe**  
Retired art teacher

**Christine Hadlow**  
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Missoula Public library

**Sidney Hahn**  
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Cold Springs Elementary MCPS

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Dental Hygiene at Home

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**Jerry Hanowell**  
Retired

**Emily Harrington**

**Judy Hartz**  
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**Neva Hassanein**  
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**Brigette Hendrix**  
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MCPS

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Professor  
University of Montana

**Mary Kay Hoag**

**Patsy Hodges**  
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**Becky Hofstad**

**Kristina Hubbard**

**Gayle Hudgins**  
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Formerly Jonkel Law Offices

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**Karen Knudsen**

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**Kenji Kobayashi**  
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**Lynne Koester**  
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**Elaine LaPointe**

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Big Sky Brewing Company

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14  
Ironworkers local 14

**Crissie McMullan**

**Dr. Sally McNall**  
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**Marylor Wilson**  
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**Bente Winston**  
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**Cynthia Wolken**  
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