

Draft Budget Message

2027 Budget Clearview Library District

Oct 14, 2026

It is my privilege to present the proposed 2027 budget for the Clearview Library District. This budget is the blueprint for how we will responsibly fund library service to the community in the year ahead. Every decision in this budget was made with our mission in mind: **to cultivate curiosity, strengthen the community, and enlighten the mind.**

2027 property tax revenue will decline by 10.2%, but judicious planning has allowed this proposed budget to remain balanced. This budget also ensures that we will maintain the services our community relies on, and while continuing to invest in our strategic priorities.

Strategic Priorities

The District will work in alignment with our newly created Strategic Plan, which sets four goals for dynamic library service. This budget is built to advance each of them:

- **Connecting:** Bringing people to the library and the library to people, through community engagement, outreach, and local partnerships.
- **Serving:** Providing a collection, programs, and spaces that meet the evolving needs of every patron, at every age.
- **Adapting:** Responding to change in technology, in how people learn, and in our growing communities, including new hands-on spaces and services for creating and discovering.
- **Sustaining:** Wisely investing in staff and infrastructure so the library remains strong and stable for years to come.

Three strategic priorities put these goals into action in 2027:

1. **MakerSpace:** Fostering hands-on creation, innovation, and digital literacy tools for all community members.
2. **Community Engagement:** Expanding active outreach, inclusive programming, and collaborative local partnerships.
3. **Collection Enhancement:** Curating diverse physical and digital materials tailored to evolving patron needs.

District Snapshot: Serving approximately 60,000 residents across Windsor, Severance, and West Greeley, the District operates the Windsor Library, Severance Library, Administrative Building, and Bookmobile. We offer a print collection of ~65,000 items, a digital collection of ~150,000 items, streaming services, extensive programs for all ages, and a wide variety of technology resources and tools.

Revenue

The District is primarily funded by a 3.546 mill levy assessed against property owners and businesses within the library district boundaries.

The assessed value from Weld County for the 2027 budget cycle is \$1,870,311,174, which will generate a projected \$6,632,123 in property tax revenue.

Revenue from other sources totals \$859,384, including specific ownership tax (\$300,000; unchanged) and other income (\$559,384; up 7%). Total projected revenue for 2027 is \$7,491,507 reflecting an overall decrease of \$714,249 (-8.7%) compared to the 2026 budget of \$8,205,756.

Highlights of Expenditures

Total projected expenditures for 2027 are **\$7,485,192**, an increase of \$253,741 (3.5%) over 2026, driven largely by rising costs for personnel, facilities, and services. The 2027 budget is balanced, with a projected net addition of \$6,318 to the fund balance.

Personnel costs total \$4,985,287, or about 67% of expenditures. Salaries (\$3,657,513) reflect 57 budgeted positions, flexibility for new positions as the District settles into its reorganization, and a pay differential for second-language skills that helps us serve more of our community. Benefits (\$1,327,774) reflect healthcare, retirement, and wellness.

Materials are budgeted at \$579,000, or 8% of expenditures, supporting our Collection Enhancement priority. These funds purchase books, media, magazines, eBooks, databases, video games, Library of Things items, and downloadable and streaming content. A growing share of this budget is devoted to downloadable and streaming services as patron demand shifts.

Operating expenses are budgeted at \$798,680, or 11% of expenditures, a 2.8% increase. Higher costs for repairs and maintenance, insurance, utilities, and telephone and internet service are partly offset by reductions in legal fees, consultants, and copier costs.

Programming (\$110,000) and **public relations** (\$174,500) hold steady, sustaining events for all ages and outreach that connects residents with library resources.

IT costs decreased 15.8% to \$225,725.

Capital Projects

Capital expenses are projected at **\$571,500** (8% of expenditures) supporting core strategic goals: \$360,725 for the Severance Library lease payment (Sustaining); \$60,775 for IT, AV, and wiring upgrades (Adapting); \$60,000 for a Community Engagement van (Connecting); \$50,000 for MakerSpace initiatives at Windsor and Severance (Adapting); and \$40,000 for furniture and refreshed service points at Windsor Library (Serving).

The MakerSpace initiative and the Community Engagement vehicle are new investments in two of our 2027 strategic priorities. The refreshed service points at the Windsor Library will make it easier for patrons to find help when they need it.

	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	2026 YTD (September)	2026 Budget	2026 Estimated	2027 Projected
<u>Revenue</u>						
Property Tax	6,704,525	6,779,261	7,271,419	7,382,728	7,382,728	6,632,123
Specific Ownership Tax	274,834	300,000	236,010	300,000	304,000	300,000
Other Income	638,763	423,492	510,472	523,028	516,354	559,384
Total Operating Revenue	7,618,122	7,502,753	8,017,902	8,205,756	8,203,082	7,491,507
<u>Expenditures</u>						
Salaries and Wages	2,871,232	3,217,983	2,271,018	3,501,710	3,206,143	3,657,513
Benefits	906,979	1,049,655	730,208	1,228,488	1,030,881	1,327,774
Operating	725,435	812,995	629,529	776,890	820,000	798,680
Materials	491,555	511,500	329,265	566,707	520,000	579,000
IT	157,331	279,598	188,180	268,000	265,000	225,725
Programming	90,267	97,920	62,620	110,000	95,000	110,000
Public Relations	110,600	137,874	102,629	174,500	165,000	174,500
Vehicles	13,865	26,330	28,487	32,000	32,000	40,500
Capital Existing	59,584	150,000	140,676	212,000	212,000	210,775
Lease Payment - Branch	361,500	361,486	50,578	361,156	361,156	360,725
Total Operating Expense	5,788,346	6,645,341	4,533,188	7,231,451	6,707,180	7,485,192
Operating Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	1,829,776	857,412	3,484,713	974,305	1,495,902	6,316
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>						
DOLA	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital - Expansion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) to Fund Balance	1,829,776	857,412	3,484,713	974,305	1,495,902	6,316
Beginning Fund Balance	11,109,970	11,109,970	12,939,746	11,109,970	11,109,970	12,605,872
Ending Fund Balance	12,939,746	11,967,382	16,424,460	12,084,275	12,605,872	12,612,187

The public is invited to attend the budget hearing for the 2027 budget at October 29th, 5:30 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, Severance Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Rose

Erica Rose|Library Director