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Dear Clinton County, Missouri Voters:

We are incredibly grateful for all the work done on this project of establishing library services and an innovation center that led to our appointment by the county commissioners in October 2024. We appreciate the tireless hours dedicated by the newly formed Friends of the Clinton County Library group of nearly 100 members from all corners of the county over the past six months. Thanks to all for your enthusiastic attitudes and actions. This election run, while disappointing is just the beginning of our organized and empowered work together!

The next step is to share the extensive research data of the feasibility study report that was invested in over the past two years by several dozen Clinton County Initiative volunteers, private donors, and a USDA-Rural Business Development Grant. While a complete draft of that report was posted online at www.maximizenwmo.org/clinton-county with a link from www.clintoncountylibrary.org for the general public in March 2025, we realize not enough people had the time to read the many answers provided in the report to their thoughtful questions. We are excited to continue the conversation, listen to input from more residents, and share the report's professionally developed plans that were formally adopted at our April public meeting.

We will continue to hold our Clinton County Library District Board of Trustees meetings, open to the public, on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Courtyard in our county seat of Plattsburg. Our goal is to deliver services designed to improve the literacy, economic development opportunities, and human connections for all ages of the 14,000+ residents across all communities of Clinton County's library district.

This election was a step forward in expanding the countywide base of support for establishing library services in an innovation center hub that has many spokes reaching out to each community. Public library services are a non-partisan resource in the United States. One of its purposes is to ensure access to information, an American right that our many veterans have fought to protect. Our conclusion after this April local election as your library board is that support and momentum has more than tripled from the 242 people who initially participated in CCI's Dream Big Listening Project to 749 people who proactively voiced their approval with a "yes" vote on the proposed tax levy. It is clear to us that many people want the opportunity to finally grow our own library services here.

We believe there are many more, so we will continue to educate voters about the reality that a successful tax levy must be in place before we can attract more resources to the county that call out local tax support as a minimum requirement for their investment. A tax levy will be proposed again in an upcoming election. Upon its passing, the board is ready to write the grant



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applications and funding proposals as soon as voters give us the go ahead with their “yes” votes.

In the meantime, planning further details and engaging residents in the process will proceed. Once the tax funding is available, services will be rolled out in a phased approach starting with the hiring of a library director, coordination of story time programming in each community, and the set-up of a robust website giving all residents of the district access to as many free digital resources as possible. Included will be audio books, eBooks, software services, cost-saving online subscriptions to hundreds of magazines, newspapers, journals, academic publications, and more. These initial steps are critical because they are the easiest and least expensive ways to open the doors to the virtual home of the Clinton County Library and provide a wide variety of free services to taxpayers.

As soon as possible with incoming tax and private funds, a temporary physical location will be secured, and the acquisition of donated and purchased materials can begin. More programming will be developed and delivered to library patrons as more team members are added to the staff. Concurrently, a permanent site will be prepared, detailed building plans drawn, bids secured following responsible bidder and prevailing wage guidelines, and a capital fundraising campaign conducted. Thanks to a generous donation of five acres by Dr. Jim and Grace Hobbs, work on the permanent home can begin sooner than later. The home of the library district’s hub facility will be in the central county seat of Plattsburg accessible from Hwy 116 with programming and book mobile services extended to all communities in the county’s district.

There is much to be done to make this project a reality and we are committed to doing our part. Are you? Please check out our current website at www.clintoncountylibrary.org to learn more.

On behalf of the Clinton County Library District Board of Trustees,

Christel Gollnick
President

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