



WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024



# High Plains Library District

2650 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street

Greeley, Colorado 80631

## ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Board of Trustees as of December 2024

Mary Heberlee.....	Chairman
Joyce Smock.....	Vice Chairman
Nick Nakamura.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Geri Holton.....	Trustee
Deana Lemos-Garcia .....	Trustee
Teresa Nunez .....	Trustee
Michael Wailes.....	Trustee

Board of Trustees as of June 2025

Nick Nakamura.....	Chairman
Joyce Smock.....	Vice Chairman
Deana Lemos-Garcia .....	Secretary/Treasurer
Jenna Evans .....	Trustee
Geri Holton.....	Trustee
Lisa Taylor .....	Trustee
Michael Wailes.....	Trustee

Dr. Matthew Hortt, Executive Director

Marjorie Elwood, Associate Director of Public Services

Eric Ewing, Associate Director of Human Resources

Prepared by:

Natalie Wertz, CPA, CFE, Finance Manager

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Administration  
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June 5, 2025

To the Members of the Board of Trustees and Patrons of the High Plains Library District:

State Law requires that the High Plains Library District (HPLD) publish within six months of the close of each fiscal year a complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) by a firm of licensed certified public accountants. Pursuant to that requirement, we hereby issue the annual comprehensive financial report of the HPLD for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the District. Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management of the HPLD has established a system of internal controls that are designed both to protect the District's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the District's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the District's framework of internal controls has been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The District's financial statements have been audited by Anderson & Whitney, P.C., a firm of licensed certified public accountants. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the District for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involved examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

GAAP requires that management provide a narrative introduction, overview and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The High Plains Library District's MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditors.

### **Profile of the District**

The District is considered to be a "Library District" established through Colorado State Statute (C.R.S. 24-90-110) and governed by the Colorado Library Law, Article 90 of Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended (the "Act"). The District was established on September 11, 1985 by the Weld County Board of County Commissioners, the city councils of Evans, Fort Lupton, Greeley, the town boards of Ault, Eaton, Hudson, and the Governing Board of Fort Lupton School District Number RE-8. The District is fiscally, managerially, and operationally an independent political subdivision of the State of Colorado.

There are seven branch libraries and four outreach vehicles that provide services to patrons throughout the High Plains Library District. Three branches are located in the City of Greeley, one each in Erie, Evans, Firestone, and Kersey. The towns of Ault, Eaton, Hudson, Johnstown, Platteville, and the city and school district of Fort Lupton, which are located within the District's boundaries, own and operate their own library facilities. The District provides centralized support services to these locations. The citizens of these municipalities pay ad valorem property taxes to the District as District residents. By contract with the municipalities two-thirds of those ad valorem property taxes are then given to these towns for library operations and capital expenditures. The District retains one-third for providing centralized support services. The District supports technology and provides limited library services at locations in Briggsdale and Hill-N-Park Senior Center. Affiliated Libraries consist of the Poudre Learning Center in Greeley, the Hazel E. Johnson Research Center, located within the City of Greeley Museum and the City of Evans museum.

The Weld Library Finance Corporation (WLFC) was formed in 2001 for the purpose of purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring certain real property and to construct or install certain improvements in the service area of the District. The WLFC did not have any financial activity in 2024. When the WLFC has activity, it is included as a blended component unit within the financial statements of the District.

Administrative and support departments include Executive Director, Associate Directors, Collection Resources, Community Relations and Marketing, Facilities Services, Finance, Foundation, Human Resources, Information Technology and Innovation, and Outreach all located at the District's Administration and Support Services building.

Management and control of the District is vested in a board of trustees consisting of seven members, all of whom are appointed by a committee representing the original founding bodies that established the District. Trustees serve staggered terms with one or two board members having terms expiring at the end of each year from 2025 through 2028. The trustees hold one regular meeting each month and special meetings when necessary. Board members are prohibited by law from receiving compensation for their services; however, they may be reimbursed for necessary travel, training, or miscellaneous expenses.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for the High Plains Library District's (HPLD) financial planning and control. HPLD is required to file a certified copy of the budget with the State of Colorado Division of Local Government by January 31 of each year. The HPLD begins the budgeting process in July each year and develops a proposed budget. The Executive Director presents this proposed budget to the Board of Trustees for review and approval on or before October 15. The deadline for certification of mill levies to the Weld County and Boulder County Commissioners is December 15 of each year. The Board of Trustees is required to hold public hearings on the proposed budget and to adopt a final budget on or before December 31, the close of the District's fiscal year. The budget is prepared by fund, account, location, and department. Budget-to-actual comparisons are provided in this report for the general fund, and when applicable the capital projects fund and the debt service fund. No budget amendments were adopted in 2024.

### **Factors Affecting Financial Condition**

The information presented in the financial statements is perhaps best understood when it is considered from the broader perspective of the specific environment within which the High Plains Library District operates.

**Local economy:** In 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus severely impacted the economy. The state-imposed shutdowns and restrictions had a negative impact across numerous industries. A sharp, rapid decline in oil and gas prices slowed production, development, and investment. The food service industry suffered dramatically. Some economic recovery occurred in 2022 through 2024. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an unemployment rate of 4.7% for Weld County and 4.6% for Colorado as of December 2024. Inflation continued to be a concern in 2024. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports inflation in Colorado to be 3.5% in 2024 compared to 4.9% in 2023, 8% in 2022, and 3.54% in 2021. Inflation in Colorado is expected to be about 2.7% in 2025.

The impact of oil and gas development and production in the county touches on many aspects of the High Plains Library District (HPLD) currently, and in planning for the future. Energy development presents both challenges and opportunities for HPLD. Prior to 2020, the County saw several compressor stations, injection wells, new pipelines, and other oil and gas support and service industries seeking permits. Currently there are approximately 24 permits pending with the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission compared to approximately 150 in early 2024, 50 in early 2023, over one hundred in early 2022, and several hundred permits pending in early 2021. Given the pending permits for Weld County, the County could see some additional long-term investment and development in the oil and gas arena. The potential for the future of energy development in Weld County is not without risks. Oil and gas production in Colorado has risks associated with the potential of additional government regulations and voter initiatives trying to restrict or limit fracking and limit drilling in Colorado communities. These regulatory risks, if implemented, could dramatically impact future oil and gas development in Colorado.

The energy industry continues to be an important economic driver of Weld County and Colorado. There are several energy companies that are major taxpayers and employers in Weld County. The Denver-Julesburg Basin covers most of the High Plains Library District geographic area. The volume of oil production and sales in Weld County increased approximately 3.65% and natural gas production and sales in Weld County increased about 6.16% in 2024. The average price per barrel of oil decreased 2.64% in 2024. With that volume of production and sales and price level, High Plains Library District is currently expecting about a 5% increase in oil and gas assessed valuation for fiscal year (collection year) 2026.

The northern Colorado region's housing market continued to be active in 2024. Housing prices began to stabilize in 2023. Increased interest rates have made potential home buyers more cautious to enter the market. New home construction continues to be active particularly in the southern section of High Plains Library District. A new large development was recently approved by the City of Greeley. That development when it is built out is expected to create some increased demand on HPLD services because of its proximity to HPLD libraries without any increase in revenue because it is outside of HPLD boundaries. Limited affordable housing remains a concern. Inflation and increased interest rates could negatively affect construction and the housing market in 2025 and beyond.

The Gallagher Amendment in the Colorado Constitution limited the portion of statewide property tax revenue that could come from residential property to 45%. The remaining 55% of statewide property tax revenue was to be levied on other property types – commercial, agricultural, oil and gas, etc. The assessment rate for non-residential property types is fixed at 29%. The residential assessment rate was adjusted every two years to maintain the 45% / 55% ratio. Since residential property values statewide increased faster than the other property types, the residential assessment rate had been decreasing. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) in the Colorado Constitution prohibits any tax increases without a vote of the citizens and increasing the residential assessment rate has been interpreted as a tax increase. A measure to repeal the Gallagher Amendment was on the ballot in November 2020 and passed.

Since the Gallagher Amendment has been repealed, the state legislature has reduced assessment rates for certain types of properties. For assessment year 2021 / collection year 2022, the residential assessment rate was fixed at 7.15% and the non-residential assessment rate was fixed at 29%. In June 2021, the state legislature passed SB 21-293 reducing the assessment rates on some classes of property for 2022 and 2023 valuations (collection years 2023 and 2024) from 7.15% to 6.95%, 7.15% to 6.8%, and 29% to 26.4%. Under SB 21-293, assessment rates were to return to the previous levels for 2024 valuations. In June 2022, the state legislature passed SB 22-238 which reduced assessment rates on some classes of property and exempted some portions of valuations of some classes of property for the 2023 and 2024 valuations. In May 2023, late in the 2023 legislative session, SB 23-303 was introduced and passed. SB 23-303 referred a ballot measure for the November 2023 election that would have reduced residential property assessment rates for 2023 and 2024 and future years. That ballot measure failed in the November 2023 election.

Within days after the November 2023 election, the governor called a special session of the state legislature to address property taxes. SB 23B-001 was passed in the special session. SB 23B-001 reduced the residential assessment rate from 6.765% to 6.7% and provided a property value exemption of \$15,000 to \$55,000 for single-family and multi-family residential properties. Those reductions were effective for the 2023 property tax assessments / 2024 property tax collections. During the special session of the state legislature, a property tax commission was created to study and make recommendations for the property tax structure in Colorado. That commission began meeting in December 2023. The property tax commission delivered a preliminary report to the state legislature in March 2024. During the last days of the legislative session in May 2024, SB24-233 was introduced and passed. SB24-233 included some of the recommendations that were made by the property tax commission.

In August 2024, another special session of the state legislature was held. HB24B-1001 was passed in the special session. That bill establishes an annual property tax revenue increase limit of 5.25% on special districts and other local governments in Colorado. HB24B-1001 also reduces assessment rates on several property types.

Historically, the agricultural industry has played a significant role in the Weld County economy. Agricultural production continues to be an important local economic factor. Corn, wheat, and sugar beets remain some of the primary crops grown in the area. The local dairy market has benefitted from the construction and expansion of a cheese factory in Greeley. The cheese factory has become one of Weld County’s major employers. The economy continues to benefit from two meat processors one of which is a long-term major employer in Weld County.

In the summer of 2017, a national food company began construction of a plant in the southwest area of the district. The plant began operations in July 2019. The plant has grown to be a major employer in Weld County.

As the High Plains Library District looks to 2025 and beyond, a number of challenges face the District to meet the ever changing and growing demands of its patrons to maintain the quality of service and product offerings that the patrons have grown to expect from their library district. The additional production of oil and gas during recent years has resulted in significant increases in the District’s assessed value with the oil and gas production being a majority or very significant percent of the District’s total assessed valuation for every fiscal year since 2019.

	Oil and gas production assessed value as a percentage of total assessed value less exempt property per Weld County Assessor
2019	57%
2020	63%
2021	58%
2022	43%
2023	63%
2024	70%
2025	61%

Because of the volatility of production levels and price fluctuations of the oil and gas market, the District must prudently manage the property tax revenue created by the energy development. To assist the Board of Trustees in managing volatility in property tax revenue will be the continued utilization of the Capital Improvement Program, five-year planning horizon, and the ten-year forecast model used during the annual budget preparation.

Although the financial health of the HPLD is currently excellent, it is important to look to the future issues, possible problems and alternative solutions to these problems. Besides the traditional role of budgeting to responsibly manage available current year funding, there must be a continued emphasis on long-term planning, recognition of the cumulative effect of individual decisions, an awareness of changing realities, flexibility, patron input in setting priorities, and a focus of goals and objectives consistent with the strategic plan, core philosophy, and mission statement. Prioritizing services is essential and a practice that the HPLD does annually. It allows the HPLD to concentrate on high priority programs and cease providing those patrons have little or no interest in.

**Long-term financial planning:** The District’s annual budget process includes the preparation of a five-year capital improvement plan (CIP) and a ten-year forecast of revenues and expenditures. The CIP identifies major construction and equipment needs that are on the horizon, as well as projections of those revenues dedicated for capital purchases. Also, of keen interest is the continued view beyond five years as to how operational expenditures will be met by the known revenue sources.

A key component of the CIP is the District’s commitment to maintaining its current infrastructure. Buildings and parking lots are evaluated annually, with resources dedicated to keeping infrastructure at acceptable quality levels and avoiding more costly major repairs and reconstruction. While the five-year CIP is a planning tool that is subject to change, it allows the District to prepare for major capital needs as well as match those needs with the appropriate projected revenue sources.

**Relevant financial policies:** The Colorado Constitutional Amendment passed in November 1992, commonly known as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), restricts growth in governmental spending and revenues, with those amounts adjusted annually for inflation and a local growth factor. In November 1999, Weld County voters approved a referendum that allowed the HPLD to retain revenues that might otherwise have been refundable to citizens under the TABOR limits. As a result, the HPLD is able to retain any revenues that exceed those TABOR limits and spend them for capital improvements, district operations and services, and other patron purposes. The District continues to be subject to other provisions of TABOR, including maintaining an emergency reserve equal to 3 percent of annual spending and the requirement for elections to approve any tax increase.

**Major initiatives:** HPLD budgeted revenues for fiscal year 2024 increased by \$17,314,627 or 32.50% compared to 2023.

After beginning his work with HPLD in April 2018, One of Dr. Horts's first projects was to develop a strategic plan for High Plains Library District. This involved holding focus groups with community members throughout the library district, meeting with other governmental and non-profit organizations, and having discussions with community leaders, board members, and staff. Dr. Horts used the input from these stakeholders to develop a strategic plan that was presented to and approved by the board in November 2018. During 2019, work began on several of the strategic plan initiatives. In 2024, progress continued to be made on strategic plan initiatives including literacy, workforce development, and capital projects. During 2025, HPLD is continuing the journey of continuous improvement and updating the strategic plan annually.

On November 2, 2024, HPLD held a grand opening for a new library in Grover. During 2024, planning and some construction work was done for a new library in Mead and for an expansion and addition at the administrative office location.

#### **Awards and Acknowledgements**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the High Plains Library District for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. This was the twenty-second consecutive year that the High Plains Library District has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized annual comprehensive financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current annual comprehensive financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.



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The preparation of this report would not have been possible without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the finance and administration departments. We would like to express our appreciation to all members of the District who assisted and contributed to the preparation of this report. Credit also must be given to the Board of Trustees for their unfailing support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of the High Plains Library District's finances. We would also like to express our appreciation to the audit firm of Anderson & Whitney, P.C., who provided guidance in preparing the annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Hott".

Dr. Matthew Hott  
Executive Director

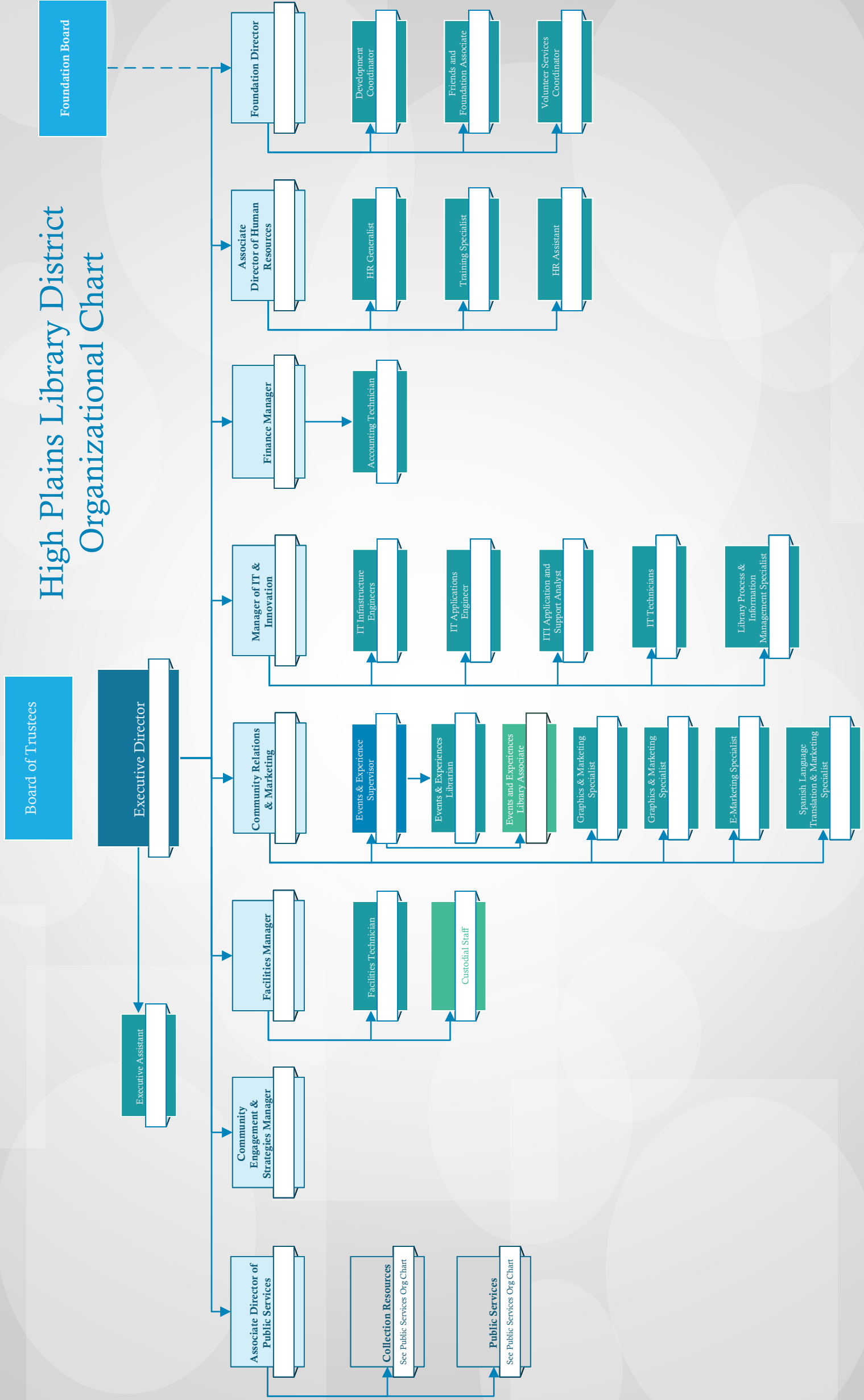
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Wertz".

Natalie Wertz, CPA, CFE  
Finance Manager

## HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT PRINCIPAL DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Dr. Matthew Hортt ..... Executive Director  
Marjorie Elwood ..... Associate Director of Public Services  
Eric Ewing ..... Associate Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Libersat ..... Collection Resources Manager  
James Melena ..... Community Relations and Marketing Manager  
Niamh Mercer ..... Foundation Director  
Elena Rosenfeld ..... Community Engagement and Strategies Manager  
Susan Staples ..... Information Technology and Innovation Manager  
Natalie Wertz ..... Finance Manager

# High Plains Library District Organizational Chart





Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of  
Achievement  
for Excellence  
in Financial  
Reporting

Presented to

**High Plains Library District  
Colorado**

For its Annual Comprehensive  
Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2023

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO



Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Trustees  
High Plains Library District  
Greeley, Colorado

**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet/statement of net position, and the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance/statement of activities of the governmental activities and the major fund of the High Plains Library District (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of High Plains Library District as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in its financial position and the budgetary comparison for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Other Matters**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require that management discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with evidence sufficient to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory section and statistical section have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

June 5, 2025

*Anderson & Whitney, P.C.*

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of the report provides readers with a narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the High Plains Library District for the year ended December 31, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the letter of transmittal and basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the District's financial performance.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- High Plains Library District's assets exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$193.3 million at the end of 2024. Of this amount, approximately \$115.8 million may be used to meet the District's ongoing obligations to patrons and creditors. The remaining \$77.5 million are capital assets or are restricted by law.
- The District's General Fund balance was \$118,823,314 as of December 31, 2024. Of this amount, \$2,096,946 is reserved for emergencies.
- The 2024 General Fund balance is \$36,907,219 more than the previous year. The total fund balance is 280% of 2024 General Fund expenditures.

### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the District's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements contain three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. In addition to the basic statements, this report also contains other supplementary information including budgetary comparison statements for certain funds, and a statistical section.

**Government-wide Financial Statements:** The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances in a manner similar to a private sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the District's assets, liabilities, and deferred resources, with the difference reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the District's financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in the statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes).

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 19-21 of this report.

**Fund financial statements:** A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. High Plains Library District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the High Plains Library District can be categorized as governmental funds.

**Governmental funds:** *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 19 through 21 of this report.

**Budgetary comparisons:** High Plains Library District adopts an annual appropriated budget for its funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund on pages 22 to 23 of this report.

**Notes to the financial statements:** The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 24 through 34 of this report.

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

**Net position:** As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government’s financial position. As of December 31, 2024, net position was \$193.3 million.

The following table provides a summary of the District's net position at December 31:

Table 1 - Net position (in Millions)		
	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Current and other assets	\$174.4	\$151.7
Capital assets	75.9	74.9
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>250.3</b>	<b>226.6</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current and other liabilities	1.5	1.7
Long-term liabilities	1.4	.8
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows</b>		
Deferred Property Taxes	54.1	68.0
<b>Net Position</b>		
Investment in capital assets	75.4	74.2
Restricted	2.1	1.6
Unrestricted	115.8	80.3
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$193.3</b>	<b>\$156.1</b>

A significant portion of High Plains Library District's net position (60%) represents unrestricted net position of \$115,821,495 which may be used to meet the Library District's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

Another significant portion of the Library District's net position (39%) reflects its investment in capital assets. These assets include land, buildings, furniture, and equipment. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens; consequently, they are not available for future spending. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt if any, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional \$2,096,946 of the District's net position (1%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. Included in this category are the reserves for TABOR emergency requirements.

The following table indicates the changes in net position:

Governmental Activities	2024	2023
Revenues:		
General revenues:		
Property and specific ownership taxes	\$72,498,381	\$54,311,518
Investment earnings	5,727,331	4,164,410
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	57,601	244,229
Operating grants and contributions	147,301	246,337
Gain on sale of asset	370,147	--
Total revenues	78,800,761	58,966,494
Expenses:		
Library services	33,067,410	27,840,477
Operations and maintenance	5,404,038	4,977,740
Depreciation	3,129,913	2,458,908
Total expenses	41,601,361	35,277,125
Increase in net position	37,199,400	23,689,369
Beginning net position	156,089,483	132,400,114
Ending net position	\$193,288,883	\$156,089,483

### ***Governmental activities***

Governmental activities increased High Plains Library District's net position by \$37,199,400 in 2024. Investment earnings increased \$1,562,921 from 2023 to 2024 because of higher returns and an increased portfolio.

Total expenses increased by 28% over the previous year due to an increase in library services including the opening of LINC.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE LIBRARY DISTRICT'S FUNDS

As noted earlier, High Plains Library District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

*Governmental Funds Overview:* The focus of Library District governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Library District's financing requirements. In particular, unrestricted fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

As of the end of 2024, the combined ending fund balance of High Plains Library District governmental fund was \$118.8 million. Approximately 99% of this consists of unrestricted fund balance, which is available as working capital and for current spending in accordance with the purposes of the specific funds. The remainder of fund balance is restricted to indicate that it is not available for new spending because it is committed for the following purposes: 1) state-constitution mandated emergency reserve of \$2,096,946.

The District has one major governmental fund:

1. General Fund. This is the primary operating fund of the High Plains Library District. It accounts for all of the District's library services. The general fund balance was \$118.8 million as of December 31, 2024. The 2024 fund balance is \$36.0 million more than the previous year. As a measure of the General Fund liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unrestricted fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures and transfers out. Unrestricted fund balance represents 272% of total 2024 expenditures while total fund balance is 280% of the same amount. The fund balance increased in 2024 due to less capital outlay and increased property tax revenue.

### GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The District's budget is prepared according to Colorado statutes. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

In December of 2023, the Board of Trustees appropriated \$59.6 million for 2024 general fund expenditures, anticipating an increase in the fund balance.

<b>Table</b>		
<b>2024 General Fund Budget</b>		
<b>(in Millions)</b>		
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 81.9	\$ 81.9
Revenue	70.6	78.4
Expenditures	59.6	42.5
Ending Fund Balance	\$92.9	\$ 118.8

## **CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

**Capital Assets:** High Plains Library District's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2024 totals \$75.4 million (net of accumulated depreciation and accounts payable related to capital projects). This investment includes all land, buildings, opening day collections, furniture, and equipment.

Additional information on the District's capital assets can be found in Note 4 of this report.

**Long-term debt:** At December 31, 2024, High Plains Library District had \$0 in outstanding debt as it was paid off during 2019.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

The following factors are expected to have a significant effect on the High Plains Library District's financial position or results of operations and were taken into account in developing the 2025 budget:

- Continued growth in Weld County causes increased demands in all service areas of the library system.
- Oil and gas property tax revenues continue to be very volatile. Property tax revenue is expected to decrease by 29% in 2025 compared to 2024. Budgeted expenditures for 2025 include funding to meet the demands placed by our patrons for library materials as well as programming for all ages and just over \$30.0 million for capital improvements.

## **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of High Plains Library District's finances for all those with an interest in the District's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided or for additional financial information should be addressed to the Finance Manager, 2650 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Greeley, CO 80631.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET/ STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

December 31, 2024	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 10)	Statement of Net Position
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and Investments	\$ 119,456,897	\$ -	\$ 119,456,897
Receivables:			
Property taxes	54,088,098	-	54,088,098
Other assets	858,829	-	858,829
Capital Assets:			
Depreciable	-	67,445,328	67,445,328
Nondepreciable	-	8,443,006	8,443,006
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>174,403,824</b>	<b>75,888,334</b>	<b>250,292,158</b>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	996,244	-	996,244
Accrued Costs	496,168	-	496,168
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Due within one year	-	1,067,074	1,067,074
Due after one year	-	355,691	355,691
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,492,412</b>	<b>1,422,765</b>	<b>2,915,177</b>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>			
Deferred Property Taxes	54,088,098	-	54,088,098
<u>FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</u>			
Fund Balances:			
Restricted for:			
Emergencies	2,096,946	(2,096,946)	-
Unassigned	116,726,368	(116,726,368)	-
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>118,823,314</b>	<b>(118,823,314)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 174,403,824</b>		
Net Position:			
Investment in capital assets		75,370,442	75,370,442
Restricted for emergencies		2,096,946	2,096,946
Unrestricted		115,821,495	115,821,495
<b>Total Net Position</b>		<b>\$ 193,288,883</b>	<b>\$ 193,288,883</b>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/ STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2024	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 11)	Statement of Activities
Revenue:			
General property taxes	\$ 69,898,202	\$ -	\$ 69,898,202
Specific ownership taxes	2,519,173	-	2,519,173
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	81,006	-	81,006
Grants	147,301	-	147,301
Library fines	41,522	-	41,522
Earnings on investments	5,727,331	-	5,727,331
Miscellaneous	16,079	-	16,079
Gain on sale of asset	-	370,147	370,147
Total Revenue	78,430,614	370,147	78,800,761
Expenditures/Expenses:			
Current:			
Salaries, wages, and benefits	15,154,850	682,462	15,837,312
Supplies	512,360	-	512,360
Small equipment	73,013	-	73,013
Software	542,239	-	542,239
Postage	32,406	-	32,406
Printing	8,443	-	8,443
Book collections	576,687	-	576,687
Periodicals	37,441	-	37,441
Public relations	88,587	-	88,587
Electronic resources	843,339	-	843,339
CD and online databases	52,285	-	52,285
Telephone	225,922	-	225,922
Contract services	1,716,430	-	1,716,430
Buildings and grounds	493,735	-	493,735
Travel and meetings	109,667	-	109,667
County Treasurer's fees	1,039,942	-	1,039,942
Maintenance of equipment	1,310,230	-	1,310,230
Memberships	21,966	-	21,966
Miscellaneous	6,412	-	6,412
Insurance	171,106	-	171,106
Utilities	479,285	-	479,285
Grants-in-aid: property taxes to member libraries (Note 3)	14,292,641	-	14,292,641
Depreciation	-	3,129,913	3,129,913
Total Current	37,788,986	3,812,375	41,601,361

Continued on next page.

**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**

**STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUE,  
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES/  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES -  
Continued**

<u>Year Ended December 31, 2024</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 11)</u>	<u>Statement of Activities</u>
Expenditures/Expenses - Continued:			
Capital Outlay	\$ 4,671,504	\$ (4,671,504)	\$ -
Total Expenditures/Expenses	42,460,490	(859,129)	41,601,361
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures:	35,970,124	1,229,276	37,199,400
Other Financing Sources: Sale of property	937,095	(937,095)	-
Net change in Fund Balances/Net Position	36,907,219	292,181	37,199,400
Fund Balances/Net Position, Beginning of Year	81,916,095	74,173,388	156,089,483
<u>Fund Balances/Net Position, End of Year</u>	<u>\$ 118,823,314</u>	<u>\$ 74,465,569</u>	<u>\$ 193,288,883</u>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND

Year Ended December 31, 2024	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Variance
Revenue:			
General property taxes	\$ 69,898,202	\$ 68,939,989	\$ 958,213
Specific ownership taxes	2,519,173	1,440,000	1,079,173
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	81,006	-	81,006
Grants	147,301	77,801	69,500
Library fines	41,522	25,000	16,522
Earnings on investments	5,727,331	100,000	5,627,331
Miscellaneous	16,079	8,000	8,079
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>78,430,614</b>	<b>70,590,790</b>	<b>7,839,824</b>
Expenditures:			
Current:			
Salaries, wages, and benefits	15,154,850	17,832,972	2,678,122
Supplies	512,360	678,944	166,584
Small equipment	73,013	87,020	14,007
Software	542,239	614,535	72,296
Postage	32,406	36,782	4,376
Printing	8,443	24,000	15,557
Book collection	576,687	552,000	(24,687)
Periodicals	37,441	55,500	18,059
Public relations	88,587	86,605	(1,982)
Electronic resources	843,339	844,000	661
CD and Online databases	52,285	58,400	6,115
Telephone	225,922	397,550	171,628
Contract services	1,716,430	1,936,655	220,225
Buildings and grounds	493,735	500,000	6,265
Travel, training, and meetings	109,667	174,241	64,574
County Treasurer's fees	1,039,942	1,113,750	73,808
Maintenance of equipment	1,310,230	1,090,816	(219,414)
Memberships	21,966	43,499	21,533
Miscellaneous	6,412	11,228	4,816
Insurance	171,106	200,000	28,894
Utilities	479,285	728,000	248,715
Grants-in-aid: property taxes to member libraries (Note 3)	14,292,641	14,536,465	243,824
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>37,788,986</b>	<b>41,602,962</b>	<b>3,813,976</b>
Capital Outlay	4,671,504	17,989,510	13,318,006
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>42,460,490</b>	<b>59,592,472</b>	<b>17,131,982</b>

Continued on next page.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND -

Continued

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Year Ended December 31, 2024	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Variance
Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 35,970,124	\$ 10,998,318	\$ 24,971,806
Other Financing Sources: Sale of property	937,095	-	937,095
Fund Balance - Beginning	81,916,095	81,916,095	-
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 118,823,314	\$ 92,914,413	\$ 25,908,901

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See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### **NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:**

The accounting and reporting policies of the High Plains Library District (the District) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The following summary of significant accounting policies is presented to assist the reader in evaluating the District's financial statements.

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#### **Reporting Entity:**

The Weld Library District was established on September 11, 1985, under the provisions of Article 90 of Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. The Weld County Commissioners together with the city councils of Evans, Fort Lupton, and Greeley, and the town boards of Ault, Eaton, and Hudson, Colorado, and the governing board of Weld School District RE-8 acted to establish the Weld Library District. On April 21, 2008, the District's Board of Trustees approved a name change to the High Plains Library District. The Library District Board was originally appointed by the Weld County Commissioners with concurrence of the city councils and has total autonomy under the State Library Act to incur debt, establish budgets, and levy property taxes to support the District's library system.

In addition, the Weld Library Finance Corporation was formed in 2001 for the purpose of purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring certain real property and to construct or install certain improvements in the service area of the District. The Weld Library Finance Corporation is blended with the financial statements of the District.

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States as applied to governmental entities. The following summary of significant accounting policies is presented to assist the reader in evaluating the District's financial statements.

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#### **Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements:**

The District reports as a special purpose government engaged in a single governmental program. The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Government activities are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for the governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

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# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued:

#### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation:

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within a current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes and interest associated with the current year are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

The District reports the following major governmental fund:

The *general fund* is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the District, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

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#### Fund Equity:

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report restrictions of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose.

Restrictions for the District are recorded up to the maximum equity available in the fund balance and consist of:

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued:

#### Fund Equity – Continued:

##### Restricted for Emergencies:

These restrictions are established to comply with TABOR. Recorded TABOR restrictions at December 31, 2024 are \$2,096,946.

Assigned fund balances, if any, are amounts the District intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by the Board of Trustees or by the executive director, to whom the Board delegated the authority. Fund balance may be assigned after the end of the reporting period. Restricted funds are considered to be spent first, followed by committed, assigned and unassigned, for an expenditure for which any could be used.

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#### Net Position:

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition and construction of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws, or regulations of other governments.

The District first applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

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#### Budget:

An annual budget and appropriation ordinance is adopted by the Board in accordance with the Colorado State Budget Law. The budget is prepared on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for all governmental funds. The accounting system is employed as a budgetary management control device during the year to monitor the individual expenditures. The legal level of control is at the fund level. All annual appropriations lapse at year end.

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# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued:

#### Capital Assets:

All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are valued at their acquisition value on the date donated. Acquisitions of capital assets are recorded as capital outlay expenditures within the governmental funds. The District's capitalization level is \$5,000.

Capital assets are depreciated as appropriate for the government-wide statement of activities. Depreciation is provided on the straight-line basis over useful lives ranging from three years for computer equipment to fifty years for buildings.

The library's "opening day" collection of books and other materials is capitalized at estimated historical cost. As individual items are replaced or updated as necessary, the collection is considered inexhaustible and is not depreciated. Subsequent purchases of materials are not capitalized unless they significantly expand the opening day collection.

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#### Property Taxes:

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1. Taxes are levied no later than December 15 and are payable in two installments on February 28 and June 15 or in full on April 30. The District records delinquent tax payments in the year received, as delinquent taxes are believed to be uncollectible. The Weld County Treasurer and the Boulder County Treasurer bill and collect the property taxes for the District.

The original January 1, 2024, levies for the general fund of the District are as follows:

	Mill Levy	Amount
General Fund	3.177	\$68,053,767

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Property tax revenue is reported net of approximately \$1,428,022 of property tax abatements for the year ended December 31, 2024. Numerous tax increment financing districts have been established by municipalities in the District.

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#### Investments:

Investments are reported at fair value.

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**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued:**

Vacation and Sick Leave:

Accrued sick leave for the District is accounted for in the government-wide statement of net position. Sick leave is earned when vested and recorded as expenditure in the general fund when paid. In the event of retirement or termination, an employee whose date of hire is prior to January 1, 1985, is paid for 50% of accumulated sick-leave hours up to the equivalent of one month.

Accrued vacation for the District is accounted for in the government-wide statement of net position. The maximum accumulation is two times the annual accrual. Upon termination or retirement, employees are paid for their accrued vacation. Accrued vacation is recorded as expenditure in the General Fund when paid.

In 2024, the District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. GASB 101 establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities and expenses related to compensated absences, including vacation leave, sick leave, and other paid time off.

High Plains Library District adopted the standard effective January 1, 2024. The impact of the adoption was not material to the financial statements and primarily resulted in enhanced disclosures only. There was no restatement needed to net position at the beginning of the year.

Changes in long-term obligations during the year were as follows:

	Balance, 1/1/24	Net Additions	Balance, 12/31/24	Due Within One year
Compensated Absences	\$ 740,303	\$682,462	\$1,422,765	\$1,067,074

**NOTE 2 - Cash and Investments:**

The District’s bank accounts at year end were entirely covered by federal depository insurance of \$250,000 and the remainder by collateral held by the District’s custodial bank under provisions of the Colorado Public Deposit Protection Act.

The Colorado Public Deposit Protection act requires financial institutions to pledge collateral having a market value of at least 102% of the aggregate public deposits not insured by federal depository insurance. Eligible collateral includes municipal bonds, U.S. government securities, mortgages and deeds of trust.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### **NOTE 2 - Cash and Investments - Continued:**

State statutes authorize the District to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, obligations of the state of Colorado or of any county, school district, and certain towns and cities therein, notes or bonds secured by insured mortgages or trust deeds, obligations of national mortgage associations, and certain repurchase agreements.

The District's investment policy is not more restrictive than State statutes. The District's investments are concentrated in money market funds and local government investment pools (97%) and U.S. Treasury sponsored agency bonds (3%).

Colorado Revised Statutes limit investment maturities to five years or less from the date of purchase. This limit on investment maturities is a means of limiting exposure to fair values arising from increasing interest rates.

At December 31, 2024, the Library District held General Fund investments of \$103,197,067 in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (COLOTRUST PLUS+). The investment pool is routinely monitored by the Colorado Division of Securities with regard to operations and investments. Investments are valued at the net asset value (NAV) with each share valued at \$1.00. COLOTRUST PLUS+ is rated AAAM by S&P Global Ratings. The District's interest is valued at NAV.

COLOTRUST PLUS+ portfolios may invest in U.S. Treasury securities, certain approved obligations of agencies of the U.S. government, commercial paper rated in the highest rating category, corporate securities rated at least AA-/Aa3, certain money market funds registered as an investment company under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 and written repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities or certain approved obligations of U.S. government agencies. The dollar weighted average days to maturity (WAM) of COLOTRUST PLUS+ at December 31, was 41 days and the weighted average life (WAL) was 85 days.

At December 31, 2024, the Library District held general fund investments of \$11,540,892 in the Colorado Statewide Investment Program (CSIP). The investment pool is routinely monitored by the Colorado Division of Securities with regard to operations and investments. Investments are valued at the net asset value (NAV) with each share valued at \$1.00. CSIP is rated AAAMmf by FitchRatings. The District's interest is valued at NAV.

CSIP portfolios may invest in U.S. Treasury securities and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities. and certain obligations of U.S. government agencies, highest rated commercial paper and any security allowed under CRS 24-75-601. At December 31, 2024 CSIP had a weighted average maturity of 41 days to final maturity. There are no unfunded commitments, the redemption frequency is daily and there is no redemption notice period.

**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 2 - Cash and Investments - Continued:**

Investments held as of December 31, 2024 are as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value
U.S. Government Treasury and Sponsored Agency Bonds, maturing in 2025-2027, rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's	\$ 4,419,687	\$4,428,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,419,687</b>	<b>\$4,428,040</b>

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There is a hierarchy of three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities
- Level 3 Unobservable inputs supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities recognized in the accompanying statement of net position measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at December 31:

Description	<u>Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using</u>		
	Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<u>December 31, 2024</u>			
U.S. Government Treasury Bonds	--	\$ 4,428,040	--

**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**NOTE 3 - Grants-In-Aid:**

Cash grants-in-aid paid to member libraries for library services are listed below:

<u>Year Ended December 31, 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Town of:	
Ault	\$ 1,216,546
Eaton	2,495,057
Fort Lupton	3,655,753
Hudson	4,332,556
Johnstown	1,281,679
Platteville	1,311,050
	<u>\$ 14,292,641</u>

Grants-in-aid are determined by the amount of property tax collected from incorporated areas in those libraries defined service areas and are for library services. Additional grants-in-aid in the form of equipment donations are also occasionally made.

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**NOTE 4 - Consolidation Agreement with City of Greeley:**

On December 28, 1990, the District entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Greeley to consolidate their operations. The agreement provides for the transfer of the ownership and control of all of the Greeley Public Library to the District exclusive of the building previously housing the Greeley Public Library along with all associated appurtenances and fixtures.

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**NOTE 5 – Commitments:**

Construction commitments on the three capital projects are approximately \$23,188,184 at December 31, 2024.

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**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 6 – Capital Assets:**

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2024 was as follows:

	Balance, 1/1/24	Additions	Deletions/ Transfers	Balance, 12/31/24
<b>Not Depreciated:</b>				
Land	\$ 2,014,769	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 2,014,769
Opening day book collection	3,587,830	15,710	--	3,603,540
Construction in process	2,060,037	4,203,425	(3,438,764)	2,824,698
<b>Depreciated:</b>				
Buildings	69,524,467	71,040	2,231,118	71,826,625
Building improvements	6,837,980	--	(163,508)	6,674,472
Equipment and furniture	11,258,875	381,329	257,018	11,897,222
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>95,283,958</b>	<b>4,671,504</b>	<b>(1,114,136)</b>	<b>98,841,326</b>
<b>Less Accumulated Depreciation:</b>				
Buildings	12,203,428	1,506,964	(69,685)	13,640,707
Building improvements	3,207,378	375,323	(105,004)	3,477,697
Equipment and furniture	4,958,461	1,247,626	(371,499)	5,834,589
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>20,369,267</b>	<b>3,129,913</b>	<b>(546,188)</b>	<b>22,952,992</b>
<b>Capital Assets, net</b>	<b>\$74,914,691</b>	<b>\$1,541,591</b>	<b>\$(567,947)</b>	<b>\$75,888,334</b>

Depreciation expense is substantially all related to library services.

**NOTE 7 - Risk Management:**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, and injuries to employees and natural disasters.

The District purchases commercial insurance for risks of loss in excess of deductible amounts. Insurance coverage has not been significantly reduced from prior years and settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in the past three years.

# HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### **NOTE 8 - Taxpayer's Bill of Rights:**

In November 1992, the voters of Colorado approved Amendment 1, commonly known as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), which added a new Section 20 to Article X of the Colorado Constitution. TABOR contains tax, spending, revenue, and debt limitations which apply to the State of Colorado and all local governments.

TABOR generally requires voter approval for any new tax, tax rate increase, mill levy increase, or issuance of new debt. Spending not subject to TABOR includes that from enterprise activities, gifts, federal funds, reserve expenditures, damage awards or property sales.

Included in the accompanying financial statements in the General Fund is an emergency reserve of \$2,096,946 as required by TABOR. In November 1999, voters approved a District mill levy increase of 1.8 mills and a resolution to exempt the increase from TABOR. The mill levy shall be reduced by \$1 million annually beginning in the collection year of 2020.

TABOR is complex and subject to interpretation. Ultimate implementation may depend upon litigation and legislative guidance.

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### **NOTE 9 – Retirement Plan:**

The High Plains Library District pension plan is a single-employer, defined contribution retirement plan. The plan provides retirement and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The Board of Trustees maintains the authority to establish and amend provisions of the plan. Employees of the High Plains Library District who are hired to work at least 30 hours per week and are at least 18 years of age are eligible to participate in the plan. Participants are always 100% vested in their participant contributions and become fully vested in the employer contributions after 5 years of service. The plan is administered by John Hancock.

The contribution requirements of plan members and the District are established and maintained by the Board of Trustees. Plan members are required to contribute 6% of their annual covered payroll. The District is required to contribute 6% of annual covered payroll. During 2024, employees contributed \$604,603 and the District contributed \$599,258 net of \$5,345 in forfeitures used, to the plan. The amount payable to the plan at December 31, 2024 was \$0.

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**HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 10 - Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities:**

Amounts reported for *governmental activities* in the statement of activities are different because:

<u>Year Ended December 31, 2024</u>	
Net change in fund balance – General Fund	\$36,907,219
The General Fund reports capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay (\$4,671,504) exceeded depreciation (\$3,129,913) in the current year	1,541,591
The General Fund reports cash received from the sale of assets as other financing sources. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of the asset sold is recorded as the excess of book value. This is the amount by which other financing sources exceeded the gain on sale of the asset in the current year	(566,948)
Compensated absence expense reported in the statement of activities does not require the use of current financial resources and is not reported as an expenditure in the governmental funds	(682,462)
<u>Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</u>	<u>\$37,199,400</u>

**NOTE 11 – Explanation of Adjustments Between Governmental Funds Balance Sheet and the Statement of Net Position:**

Amounts reported in the statement of net position are different because (see Note 10 also):

<u>December 31</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total fund balances of governmental funds	\$ 118,823,314
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds	75,888,334
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds	(1,422,765)
<u>Total Net Position</u>	<u>\$ 193,288,883</u>

**STATISTICAL SECTION-+**



**STATISTICAL SECTION**  
(unaudited)

This part of the High Plains Library District’s annual comprehensive financial report presents detailed information as a context for understanding what the information in the financial statements, note disclosures, and required supplementary information says about the district’s overall financial health.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Financial Trends	
<i>These schedules contain trend information to help the reader understand how the district’s financial performance and well-being have changed over time.....</i>	<i>37-42</i>
Revenue Capacity	
<i>These schedules contain information to help the reader assess the district’s most significant local revenue source, the property tax.....</i>	<i>43-45</i>
Debt Capacity	
<i>These schedules present information to help the reader assess the affordability of the district’s current levels of outstanding debt and the district’s ability to issue additional debt in the future.....</i>	<i>46-48</i>
Demographic and Economic Information	
<i>These schedules offer demographic and economic indicators to help the reader understand the environment within which the district’s financial activities take place.....</i>	<i>49-50</i>
Operating Information	
<i>These schedules contain service data to help the reader understand how the information in the district’s financial report relates to the services the district provides and the activities it performs.....</i>	<i>51-53</i>

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, the information in these schedules is derived from the annual comprehensive financial reports for the relevant year.

**High Plains Library District  
Net Position by Component  
Last Ten Years  
(accrual basis of accounting)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Governmental activities										
Net Investment in capital assets	\$22,839,391	\$31,182,064	\$30,931,304	\$31,173,769	\$34,229,793	\$ 42,796,713	\$ 44,737,876	\$ 65,898,639	\$ 74,250,223	\$ 75,370,442
Restricted for										
Debt service	934,901	956,155	957,200	965,467	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergencies	862,082	1,123,404	872,179	824,477	1,004,893	1,329,302	1,325,736	1,027,545	1,561,450	2,096,946
Unrestricted	18,464,841	21,298,931	29,741,271	38,051,949	47,742,865	59,016,649	75,849,949	65,473,930	80,277,810	115,821,495
Total governmental activities net position	\$43,101,215	\$54,560,554	\$62,501,954	\$71,015,662	\$82,977,551	\$ 103,142,664	\$ 121,913,561	\$132,400,114	\$ 156,089,483	\$ 193,288,883
Primary government										
Net Investment in capital assets	22,839,391	31,182,064	30,931,304	31,173,769	34,229,793	42,796,713	44,737,876	65,898,639	74,250,223	75,370,442
Restricted	1,796,983	2,079,559	1,829,379	1,789,944	1,004,893	1,329,302	1,325,736	1,027,545	1,561,450	2,096,946
Unrestricted	18,464,841	21,298,931	29,741,271	38,051,949	47,742,865	59,016,649	75,849,949	65,473,930	80,277,810	115,821,495
Total primary government net position	\$43,101,215	\$54,560,554	\$62,501,954	\$71,015,662	\$82,977,551	\$ 103,142,664	\$ 121,913,561	\$132,400,114	\$ 156,089,483	\$ 193,288,883

**High Plains Library District  
Changes in Net Position  
Last Ten Years  
(accrual basis of accounting)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Expenses</b>										
Governmental activities:										
General government	\$ 21,711,526	\$ 25,922,845	\$ 21,448,708	\$ 21,989,801	\$ 25,126,790	\$ 27,283,721	\$ 28,075,138	\$ 27,560,645	\$ 35,277,125	\$ 41,601,361
Interest on long term debt	580,418	519,145	141,872	122,906	90,056	-	-	-	-	-
Total governmental activities expenses	\$ 22,291,944	\$ 26,441,990	\$ 21,590,580	\$ 22,112,707	\$ 25,216,846	\$ 27,283,721	\$ 28,075,138	\$ 27,560,645	\$ 35,277,125	\$ 41,601,361
<b>Program Revenues</b>										
Governmental activities:										
Charges for services:										
General government	156,912	101,381	89,100	85,288	62,673	97,484	136,790	73,450	204,993	508,754
Operating grants and contributions	192,479	122,808	76,675	137,901	119,644	277,707	272,911	505,198	285,573	147,301
Total governmental activities program revenues	\$ 349,391	\$ 224,189	\$ 165,775	\$ 223,189	\$ 182,317	\$ 375,191	\$ 409,701	\$ 578,648	\$ 490,566	\$ 656,055
<b>Net (Expenses)/Revenue</b>										
Governmental activities										
Total primary government net	\$ (21,942,553)	\$ (26,217,801)	\$ (21,424,805)	\$ (21,889,518)	\$ (25,034,529)	\$ (26,908,530)	\$ (27,665,437)	\$ (26,981,997)	\$ (34,786,559)	\$ (40,945,306)
<b>General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Assets</b>										
Governmental activities:										
Taxes:										
Property taxes	\$ 26,881,943	\$ 35,238,427	\$ 26,961,850	\$ 27,482,605	\$ 33,496,472	\$ 44,310,058	\$ 44,191,101	\$ 34,251,493	\$ 52,048,336	\$ 69,898,202
Specific ownership	1,854,124	2,223,890	2,125,055	2,128,161	2,324,831	2,175,372	2,211,114	2,071,809	2,263,182	2,519,173
Unrestricted investment earnings	159,022	214,921	279,300	792,460	1,175,115	588,213	34,119	1,145,248	4,164,410	5,727,331
Total governmental activities	28,895,089	37,677,238	29,366,205	30,403,226	36,996,418	47,073,643	46,436,334	37,468,550	58,475,928	78,144,706
Total primary government	\$ 28,895,089	\$ 37,677,238	\$ 29,366,205	\$ 30,403,226	\$ 36,996,418	\$ 47,073,643	\$ 46,436,334	\$ 37,468,550	\$ 58,475,928	\$ 78,144,706
<b>Change in Net Position</b>										
Governmental activities	\$ 6,952,536	\$ 11,459,437	\$ 7,941,400	\$ 8,513,708	\$ 11,961,889	\$ 20,165,113	\$ 18,770,897	\$ 10,486,553	\$ 23,689,369	\$ 37,199,400
Total primary government	\$ 6,952,536	\$ 11,459,437	\$ 7,941,400	\$ 8,513,708	\$ 11,961,889	\$ 20,165,113	\$ 18,770,897	\$ 10,486,553	\$ 23,689,369	\$ 37,199,400

**High Plains Library District  
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds  
Last Ten Years  
(modified accrual basis of accounting)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
General Fund										
Restricted	\$ 862,082	\$ 1,123,404	\$ 872,179	\$ 824,477	\$ 1,004,893	\$ 1,329,302	\$ 1,325,736	\$ 1,027,545	\$ 1,561,450	\$ 2,096,946
Unrestricted, unassigned	\$ 13,710,589	\$ 16,348,874	22,850,568	15,710,138	28,700,318	40,131,848	15,161,711	63,584,746	80,354,645	116,726,368
Assigned	5,170,000	5,427,000	7,977,350	21,809,300	19,584,220	19,584,220	60,523,815	-	-	-
Total general fund	\$ 19,742,671	\$ 22,899,278	\$ 31,700,097	\$ 38,343,915	\$ 49,289,431	\$ 61,045,370	\$ 77,011,262	\$ 64,612,291	\$ 81,916,095	\$ 118,823,314
All other Governmental Funds										
Restricted	\$ 934,901	\$ 956,155	\$ 957,200	\$ 965,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total for all governmental funds	\$ 20,677,572	\$ 23,855,433	\$ 32,657,297	\$ 39,309,382	\$ 49,289,431	\$ 61,045,370	\$ 77,011,262	\$ 64,612,291	\$ 81,916,095	\$ 118,823,314

**High Plains Library District**  
**Changes in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds**  
**Last Ten Years**  
**(modified accrual basis of accounting)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Revenues</b>										
Taxes	\$ 28,750,311	\$ 37,462,247	\$ 29,086,905	\$ 29,610,766	\$ 35,821,303	\$ 46,530,311	\$ 46,512,725	\$ 36,367,575	54,479,985	72,498,381
Charges for services										
Library fines	156,912	101,381	89,100	85,288	62,673	23,860	26,280	29,177	36,526	41,522
Earnings on investments	159,022	214,921	279,300	792,460	1,175,115	588,213	34,119	1,145,248	4,164,410	5,727,331
Contributions in kind - rent	113,750	47,395	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	64,485	75,413	76,675	137,901	119,644	306,450	272,911	505,198	285,573	163,380
Total revenues	29,244,480	37,901,357	29,531,980	30,626,415	37,178,735	47,448,834	46,846,035	38,047,198	58,966,494	78,430,614
<b>Expenditures</b>										
General government	20,271,134	24,501,391	20,156,867	20,675,360	23,850,047	25,938,208	26,741,744	26,120,407	32,752,718	37,788,986
Capital outlay	108,638	370,588	70,531	1,588,270	2,236,239	9,754,687	4,138,399	24,325,762	8,909,972	4,671,504
Debt issuance costs										
Debt service										
Interest	522,762	461,489	82,716	65,250	32,400	-	-	-	-	-
Principal	1,570,000	9,390,000	1,020,000	1,045,000	1,080,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	22,472,534	34,723,468	21,330,114	23,373,880	27,198,686	35,692,895	30,880,143	50,446,169	41,662,690	42,460,490
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	6,771,946	3,177,889	8,201,866	7,252,535	9,980,049	11,755,939	15,965,892	(12,398,971)	17,303,804	35,970,124
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>										
Transfers in	2,092,762	9,867,206	1,110,250	1,110,250	1,112,400	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	(2,092,762)	(9,867,206)	(1,110,250)	(1,110,250)	(1,112,400)	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on sale of building	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	937,095
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	937,095
Net change in fund balances	\$ 6,771,946	\$ 3,177,889	\$ 8,201,866	\$ 7,252,535	\$ 9,980,049	\$ 11,755,939	\$ 15,965,892	\$ (12,398,971)	\$ 17,303,804	\$ 36,907,219
Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures	9.36%	28.68%	5.19%	5.10%	4.46%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**High Plains Library District  
General Governmental Expenditures By Function  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Administrative Services</b>	<b>Books; Resources</b>	<b>Facilities Operations</b>	<b>Grants In Aid</b>	<b>Capital Outlay</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Totals</b>
2015	6,724,535	1,971,410	2,006,234	1,633,200	1,406,582	6,529,173	108,638	2,092,762	22,472,534
2016 <sup>1</sup>	7,127,174	2,041,965	2,632,139	1,652,204	1,609,406	9,438,503	370,588	9,851,489	34,723,468
2017	6,928,292	2,014,659	2,291,142	1,117,897	1,577,637	6,227,241	70,530	1,102,716	21,330,114
2018	7,238,335	2,164,073	2,387,221	1,192,694	1,610,030	6,083,007	1,588,720	1,110,250	23,374,330
2019	7,810,132	2,410,831	2,690,406	1,408,652	1,799,617	7,730,409	2,236,239	1,112,400	27,198,686
2020 <sup>2</sup>	8,095,580	2,629,781	2,670,119	1,358,192	1,390,316	9,794,220	9,754,687	-	35,692,895
2021	8,233,202	2,624,724	2,792,190	1,209,728	1,626,125	10,255,775	4,138,399	-	30,880,143
2022 <sup>3</sup>	8,770,056	2,907,644	3,093,225	1,403,241	2,486,261	7,459,980	24,325,762	-	50,446,169
2023	10,474,464	3,161,155	3,910,624	1,234,687	2,458,554	11,513,234	8,909,972	-	41,662,690
2024	11,783,855	3,370,995	4,322,571	1,509,752	2,509,172	14,292,641	4,671,504	-	42,460,490

Note:

<sup>1</sup> The large increase in debt service reflects the early repayment of the 2006 Certificates of Participation.

<sup>2</sup> The large increase in capital outlay reflects the construction cost of the Erie Library expansion.

<sup>3</sup> The large increase in capital outlay reflects the construction cost of the LINC branch

**High Plains Library District  
General Governmental Revenues By Source  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Property Taxes</b>	<b>Specific Ownership Taxes</b>	<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Fines</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>Total</b>
2015	26,881,943	1,854,124	159,022	55,436	156,912	137,043	-	29,244,480
2016	35,238,427	2,223,820	214,921	60,836	101,381	61,972	-	37,901,357
2017	26,961,850	2,125,055	279,300	65,578	89,100	11,097	-	29,531,980
2018	27,515,331	2,128,161	738,244	62,302	85,288	75,599	-	30,604,925
2019	33,496,472	2,324,831	1,175,115	94,288	62,673	25,256	-	37,178,635
2020	44,310,058	2,175,372	588,213	207,579	23,860	143,752	-	47,448,834
2021	44,301,611	2,211,114	34,119	199,410	26,280	73,501	-	46,846,035
2022	34,295,766	2,071,809	1,145,248	457,525	29,177	47,673	-	38,047,198
2023	52,216,803	2,263,182	4,164,410	246,337	36,526	39,236	-	58,966,494
2024	69,979,208	2,519,173	5,727,331	147,301	41,522	16,079	937,095	79,367,709

Source:  
HPLD ACFR

**High Plains Library District  
Property Tax Levies and Collections  
Last Ten Fiscal Years  
(amounts expressed in thousands)**

Levy Year	Collect Year	Total Tax Levy for Fiscal Year <sup>1</sup>	Collected within the Fiscal Year of the Levy		Collections in Subsequent Years <sup>3</sup>	Total Collections to Date	
			Tax Amount <sup>2</sup>	Percent of Levy		Tax Amount	Percent of Levy
2014	2015	27,320	26,882	98.4%		26,882	98.4%
2015	2016	35,255	35,223	99.9%		35,223	99.9%
2016	2017	26,930	26,870	99.8%		26,870	99.8%
2017	2018	27,390	27,352	99.9%		27,352	99.9%
2018	2019	33,949	33,870	99.8%		33,870	99.8%
2019	2020	45,044	44,671	99.2%		44,671	99.2%
2020	2021	43,095	42,893	99.5%		42,893	99.5%
2021	2022	34,032	33,999	99.9%		33,999	99.9%
2022	2023	51,879	51,485	99.2%		51,485	99.2%
2023	2024	68,940	68,839	99.9%		68,839	99.9%

Source:

<sup>1</sup> Final Budget

<sup>2</sup> YTD Treasurer's Tax Distribution

<sup>3</sup> Not available for years not shown

**High Plains Library District**  
**Assessed and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property**  
**Last Ten Fiscal Years**  
**(in thousands of dollars)**

<b>Levy Year</b>	<b>Vacant Land</b>	<b>Residential Property</b>	<b>Commercial Property</b>	<b>Industrial Property</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>	<b>State Assessed</b>	<b>Total Taxable Assessed Value</b>	<b>Estimated Actual Taxable Value</b>	<b>Total Direct Tax Rate</b>	<b>Assessed Value as a % of Actual Value</b>
2015	55,985	1,146,858	655,020	525,734	168,228	18,440	7,374,473	740,461	10,685,199	31,560,980	3.249	33.856%
2016	48,576	1,192,400	677,672	680,033	172,787	18,187	4,708,785	771,524	8,269,964	29,936,864	3.249	27.625%
2017	65,994	1,413,932	764,517	795,317	197,001	18,605	4,369,798	813,039	8,438,203	35,327,035	3.249	23.886%
2018	57,708	1,460,074	785,202	822,019	199,744	22,062	6,338,480	814,026	10,499,315	38,645,508	3.249	27.168%
2019	76,518	1,789,785	959,571	938,681	190,691	25,222	9,194,058	893,660	14,068,186	48,245,043	3.177	29.160%
2020	66,708	1,846,452	988,053	1,217,340	195,667	25,995	8,297,234	1,036,480	13,673,929	49,819,777	3.177	27.447%
2021	85,241	2,090,030	1,082,697	1,196,204	198,835	28,255	4,928,653	1,183,431	10,793,346	50,333,570	3.177	21.444%
2022	74,516	2,101,828	1,104,430	1,169,469	190,161	30,236	10,426,829	1,409,193	16,506,662	58,634,935	3.177	28.152%
2023	108,247	2,434,509	1,379,294	1,357,494	221,751	40,643	14,963,302	958,323	21,463,563	71,824,108	3.177	29.884%
2024	102,251	2,506,104	1,420,229	1,364,067	212,805	49,501	10,479,847	1,002,358	17,137,162	67,854,483	3.177	25.256%

Source: Weld County Assessor's office

**High Plains Library District  
Principal Taxpayers  
December 31, 2024**

	2024			2015		
	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
Noble Energy Inc.	2,393,753,790	1	13.97%	2,115,829,960	2	23.18%
PDC Energy Inc.	1,756,569,740	2	10.25%	432,068,270	5	4.73%
Kerr-Mcgee Oil & Gas Onshore LP	1,697,500,960	3	9.91%	2,742,921,420	1	30.04%
Verdad Resources LLC	740,624,880	4	4.32%			
Civitas Resources Inc.	520,891,470	5	3.04%			
Bayswater Exploration and Production LLC	472,999,450	6	2.76%			
Kerr Mcgee Gathering LLC	439,356,720	7	2.56%			
Extraction Oil & Gas LLC	402,193,590	8	2.35%	186,796,300	8	2.05%
Crestone Peak Resources LLC	342,606,760	9	2.00%			
Bison IV Operating LLC	310,430,440	10	1.81%			
Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.				639,256,280	3	7.00%
Bonanza Creek Energy Inc.				432,940,970	4	4.74%
Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel)				236,338,400	6	2.59%
DCP Midstream LP				202,790,600	7	2.22%
Bill Barrett Corporation				164,226,450	9	1.80%
Whiting Oil & Gas				162,453,010	10	1.78%
	<u>\$ 9,076,927,800</u>		<u>52.97%</u>	<u>\$7,315,621,660</u>		<u>80.13%</u>
Total Gross Taxable Assessed Valuation	\$ 17,137,162,140					

Source: Weld County Assessor

**High Plains Library District  
Ratio of Outstanding Debt by Type  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Governmental Activities				
Fiscal Year	Certificates of Participation	Total Library District	Percentage of Personal Income <sup>1</sup>	Per Capita <sup>1</sup>
2015	12,535,000	12,535,000	0.15%	45.67
2016	3,145,000	3,145,000	0.04%	11.04
2017	2,125,000	2,125,000	0.03%	6.98
2018	1,080,000	1,080,000	0.01%	3.55
2019	-	-	0.00%	-
2020	-	-	0.00%	-
2021	-	-	0.00%	-
2022	-	-	0.00%	-
2023	-	-	0.00%	-
2024	-	-	0.00%	-

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Demographic and Economic Statistics schedule

Source: Current and prior year's financial statements.

**High Plains Library District  
Legal Debt Margin Calculation for Fiscal Year 2024**

Assessment Valuation	\$17,014,186,259
Legal Debt Limit	255,212,794

**Legal Debt Margin Information  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Debt limit	\$ 159,863,784	\$ 123,496,081	\$ 126,183,800	156,590,520	210,027,615	203,212,448	159,674,899	244,634,446	319,255,468
Total net debt applicable to limit	12,535,000	3,145,000	2,125,000	1,080,000	-	-	-	-	-
Legal debt margin	<u>\$ 147,328,784</u>	<u>\$ 120,351,081</u>	<u>\$ 124,058,800</u>	<u>\$ 155,510,520</u>	<u>\$ 210,027,615</u>	<u>\$ 203,212,448</u>	<u>\$ 159,674,899</u>	<u>\$ 244,634,446</u>	<u>\$ 319,255,468</u>
Total net debt applicable to the limit as a percentage of debt limit	7.84%	2.55%	1.68%	0.69%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Debt Limitation: Under Section 22-42-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1973, the High Plains Library District may incur indebtedness of general District purposes in an amount not to exceed 1.5% of assessed valuation of all taxable property.

<sup>2</sup> Certificates of Participation are not generally included as debt for purposes of calculating legal debt limit (Colorado Revised Statute 22-42-104). However, they are presented here to give the most conservative analysis of debt allowable that remains available.

**High Plains Library District  
Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt  
As of December 31, 2024**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Net General Obligation Bonded Debt Outstanding</b>	<b>Percentage Applicable to Government <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Amount Applicable to Government</b>
HPLD COP's	\$ -	100.00%	\$ -
Total Direct Debt	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Cities and Towns	37,513,291	92.81%	34,815,516
Schools	2,954,037,260	55.97%	1,653,446,822
Special Districts	403,630,523	60.03%	242,291,733
Total Overlapping Debt	<u>3,395,181,074</u>		<u>1,930,554,071</u>
Total Direct and Overlapping Debt	<u>\$ 3,395,181,074</u>		<u>\$ 1,930,554,071</u>

Source: Weld County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Overlapping governments are those that coincide, at least in part, with the geographic boundaries of the district. This schedule estimates the portion of the outstanding debt of those overlapping governments that is borne by residents and businesses located within the district's boundaries. This process recognizes that, when considering the district's ability to issue and repay long-term debt, the entire debt burden borne by the residents and businesses should be taken into account. However, this does not imply that every taxpayer is a resident, and therefore responsible for repaying the debt, of each overlapping government.

**High Plains Library District  
Demographic and Economic Statistics  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>High Plains</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>
	<b>Library District Patron Population</b>	<b>Weld County Population</b>	<b>Personal Income (\$ billions)</b>		
2015	257,157	274,487	10.74	27,047	3.80%
2016	259,688	284,876	10.60	42,787	3.80%
2017	268,307	294,397	11.20	42,701	3.40%
2018	270,901	304,435	12.50	44,080	2.70%
2019	290,103	323,637	14.70	46,172	3.00%
2020	298,361	331,895	15.30	50,198	7.20%
2021	302,022	340,018	12.70	52,054	5.70%
2022	300,565	345,152	21.00	56,553	3.00%
2023	310,855	358,111	17.30	58,860	3.30%
2024	330,330	377,586	21.10	62,532	4.70%

Source: Upstate Colorado in cooperation with the University of Northern Colorado and the State of Colorado demographer.

Library Research Service State of Colorado for HPLD population.

Weld County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Note: The HPLD Patron population is shown as a comparative to the Weld County population as the District's service area approximates the boundary of Weld County.

**High Plains Library District  
Principal Employers - Weld County  
December 31, 2024**

	2024			2015		
	Employees	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment	Employees	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment
JBS Swift Beef Company	4992	1	2.81%	4523	1	3.06%
Banner Health (NCMC)	3710	2	2.08%	3069	2	2.07%
Vestas	2631	3	1.48%	1980	3	1.34%
Greeley/Evans School District 6	2258	4	1.27%	1923	4	1.30%
Weld County Government	1823	5	1.02%	1405	7	0.95%
University of Northern Colorado	1221	6	0.69%	1442	6	0.97%
Haliburton Energy Services Inc	1200	7	0.67%	1110	8	0.75%
City of Greeley	1145	8	0.64%	857	9	0.58%
AIMS	817	9	0.46%			0.00%
Occidental Petroleum Corp	580	10	0.33%			0.00%
State Farm Insurance				1720	5	1.16%
Tele Tech				700	10	0.47%
<b>Total Principal Employers</b>	<u>20,377</u>		<u>11.45%</u>	<u>18,729</u>		<u>12.66%</u>
<b>Other Employers</b>	<u>157,582</u>		<u>88.55%</u>	<u>129,255</u>		<u>87.34%</u>
<b>Total County Employment</b>	<u><u>177,959</u></u>		<u><u>100.00%</u></u>	<u><u>147,984</u></u>		<u><u>100.00%</u></u>

Source: Weld County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Upstate Colorado

**High Plains Library District  
Library Materials Purchased and Circulated  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Volumes Owned (1)</b>	<b>Number of Audio/Visual Items Owned (2)</b>	<b>Total Items Owned</b>	<b>Number of Items Circulated *</b>
2015	683,682	131,135	814,817	2,781,499
2016	636,645	602,207	1,238,852	2,640,378
2017	534,531	609,660	1,144,191	2,555,135
2018	495,977	461,207	957,184	2,420,158
2019	490,302	358,399	879,317	2,275,342
2020	490,743	102,784	593,527	1,490,905
2021	492,360	137,468	629,828	1,746,513
2022	514,556	126,695	641,251	1,797,349
2023	528,825	144,810	673,635	1,889,087
2024	531,000	157,973	688,973	2,176,084

Source: High Plains Library District IT department.

Note:

(1) Volumes include books, book club bags, new books, Paperbacks, Large Print, Kits, member books, new periodicals, periodicals, and references, and express books.

(2) Audio/visual items include audio books, MP3, Blu-Ray, cassettes, CD's, DVD's, E-books, equipment, short check out equipment, software, member audio, member video, net library, recordings, and video cassettes.

\* The number of items circulated includes all of the HPLD branch libraries; four Outreach vehicles; and other service locations; and all of the Member Libraries - Eaton Public Library, Fort Lupton Public & School Library, Glenn A Jones, M.D. Memorial Library and the Milliken location, Hudson Public Library and the Keenesburg Public Library, Northern Plains Public Library, Platteville Public Library, and Nantes Library.

**High Plains Library District  
Service Locations  
December 31, 2024**

Libraries	Address	Square Footage	Number of Employees
Carbon Valley Regional	7 Park Avenue Firestone, CO 80504	35,400	25
Centennial Park Library	2227 23rd Avenue Greeley, CO 80634	28,000	33
Administration and Support Services building*	2650 W. 29th Street Greeley, CO 80631	28,903	60
Erie Community	400 Powers Street Erie, CO 80516	26,100	28
Farr Regional Library**	1939 61st Avenue Greeley, CO 80634	38,000	27
Grover Library	402 Chatoga Avenue Grover, CO 80729	1,792	3
Kersey Library	332 3rd Street Kersey, CO 80644	4,402	3
LINC	501 8th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631	63,960	41
Riverside Library and Cultural Center	3700 Golden Street Evans, CO 80620	18,500	19

\* The Administration and Support Services building houses the administrative, collection resources and outreach department staff.

\*\* The Virtual Library department consisting of 5 employees is located at the Farr Regional Library (FRL) and included in the number of employees listed for the FRL.

This information is presented on an annual year end basis, to highlight the number of individual employees at each location and not FTE.

**High Plains Library Distric  
Circulation Summary by Location  
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Carbon Valley <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Centennial Park</b>	<b>Erie <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Farr</b>	<b>Grover</b>	<b>Kersey <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>LINC</b>	<b>Lincoln Park</b>	<b>Riverside Library and Cultural Center <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Outreach Services</b>	<b>Total</b>
2015	290,955	395,511	296,969	432,621		10,431		174,416	123,496	79,522	1,803,921
2016	272,125	399,477	281,932	405,275		7,917		97,700	106,282	89,766	1,660,474
2017	245,117	365,264	280,578	377,723		3,274		85,789	104,204	96,240	1,558,189
2018	229,604	308,229	279,100	341,960		1,840		69,682	86,623	93,980	1,411,018
2019	213,002	268,321	289,942	310,571		2,918		58,744	74,959	97,919	1,316,376
2020	114,024	112,769	163,866	155,271		2,567		20,537	29,084	74,223	672,341
2021	162,140	132,896	247,044	207,305		3,941		22,084	40,072	70,730	886,212
2022	171,535	139,178	252,014	222,893		6,092		22,154	43,003	54,873	911,742
2023	168,788	106,110	262,452	217,844		8,560	91,668	5,489	41,684	51,598	954,193
2024	175,988	95,713	267,851	205,404	471	6,431	121,591		37,396	47,007	957,852

Note:

<sup>1</sup> The Carbon Valley Regional Library opened in March 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Erie activity occurred at the Lorraine David Children's Library which ceased its operations with the Erie Community Library opening on January 12, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> The Kersey mini-branch opened in late January 2013. The Kersey mini-branch was closed from late June 2017 to late December 2017 for mold mitigation.

<sup>4</sup> The Riverside Library and Cultural Center opened October 18, 2014.

During 2020, the libraries were closed for several weeks and subject of limited services because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Source: High Plains Library District IT department.