

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Moorhead Regional Library & Community Center

Q. What is being proposed?

A. The building of a new regional library and community center in Moorhead. The Moorhead City Council approved a fall 2022 ballot question asking citizens to consider a city sales tax increase to fund the regional library and community center.

Q. Why is this being proposed now?

A. The current regional library is more than 60 years old and has a long list of repairs and needs to meet the standards of modern libraries. Further, Moorhead residents have asked for more community center space and places to gather. Moorhead city leaders asked the Minnesota Legislature to allow Moorhead to put a local option sales tax referendum in front of voters in November 2022 and the Legislature approved. The City Council then voted to place the sales tax question on the ballot.

Q. How will it be funded?

A. A local option sales tax allows Minnesota cities to put a sales tax on non-food and clothing items. The Legislature authorized the collection of \$31.59 million for financing and construction of a regional library and community center. (Automobiles and certain similar items are exempt from a local option sales tax.) The current sales tax in Moorhead is 7.375%, which includes a state sales tax rate of 6.875% and a 0.5% Clay County sales tax. Clay County's 0.5% sales tax is set to expire in 2027 without an extension. By comparison, Fargo and West Fargo have 7.5% sales tax rate (which includes 5.0% state, 0.5% Cass County, and 2.0% city. In North Dakota, clothing is taxed.)

Q. Who is on the Mayor's Library and Community Center Task Force?

A. Members include (as of January 18, 2022):

Canı Adan	James Hand
Greta Almie	Megan Krueger
Lisa Borgen	Liz Lynch
Gavin Feil	Karla Wolford
Sajid Ghauri	Nick Woodard
Doug Greenley	Danielle Wright

Q. How can I support the new Library and Community Center?

A. Residents can support the new library and community center by volunteering to help the task force; attending meetings and public input sessions; and voting. There are lots of opportunity to show your support, provide input, and make your voice heard.

Q. How will citizens provide input?

A. Citizen input is key to making the regional library and community center a reality. Citizens can attend input sessions and contact their elected officials.

Q. Where will the Library and Community Center be built; how will the site of the Regional Library and Community Center be selected?

A. The task considered a number of factors in site selection including overall location, access to public transit, connections to other amenities, parking, and other factors. After working through that process, a to-be-determined downtown location is recommended.

Q. What is the timeline for a new Library and Community Center?

A. Now that the City Council has approved bringing the local option sales tax to the public, the task force will seek more citizen involvement and input between now and the election on November 8, 2022. There will be several public input sessions over the course of the next months for input and ideas from residents.

Q. How will the new Library and Community Center tie into other civic amenities?

A. With thoughtful planning, the new library and community center will blend in with other spaces to create opportunities for connection and collaboration with nearby amenities. It is hoped that this project will become a “cultural anchor” for the downtown.

Q. Why doesn't this include an athletic center or aquatic center?

A. The need for replacement of the 60-year-old public library is evident as is the need for more community gathering spaces. This project is not saying that an athletic center or aquatic center might also be needed in Moorhead, but that would be a different project.

Q. Will the envisioned science center be a part of this?

A. At this time, the science center is not anticipated to be part of the new regional library and community center, but the possibility exists that it could be part of a greater Moorhead downtown if the science center were built there.