

# Udall Public Library

HB2176  
In Support, Oral Testimony  
Monica Rupp

January 27th, 2024

Dear Chairman and Committee,

The Udall Public Library would like to thank you for considering our house bill number 2176. Here is a little about our library and town:

Town population: average population of 600-700 people

Year	Total Visits (# of kids)	Budget
2021	500 (unavailable)	~ \$10,000
2022	2123 (990)	~ \$22,300
2023	3503 (1829)	~ \$30,200 (\$29,114 actual)
2024		~ \$36,000

	Total Patrons	In Town	Inside USD63 but outside city	Other
Jan. 2022	214	-----	Not Available-----	
Jan. 2023	350	155 (44%)	169 (48%)	26 (8%)
Jan. 2024	454	205 (45%)	212 (47%)	37 (8%)

As you see above, our library is run on a VERY TIGHT budget. About 80% of our budget goes to wages, with the remaining 20% being used on CIPA (internet safety) software, media for checkout, patron programs, cleaning supplies, postage, office supplies, etc. Our city pays our electric, gas,

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trash, water, and telephone/internet bills with its own budget money since we can't afford to with our budget. It also provides the portion of the building we are in free of charge.

As shown on the first page, you can also see that the city's taxpayers (who currently fund the library) are not the highest percentage of patrons using our library. There are actually more people that reside outside of town but within our school district using the library. This makes sense because many of the people that live within that area either grew up here, went to school here, or work here. However, this also shows that the library is not being equally supported. Our library needs more budget money just to stay up with current library standards and community needs. With the funding being one-sided, enlarging our taxing area to the school district makes sense – especially when 92% of the patrons would then live within our library's taxing area.

This bill is extremely important to us. It is a simple bill, but one that could make all the difference in the world to our library's budget. If the bill is passed, it gives our library the opportunity to ask voters if they are in favor of expanding our taxing area and thus spreading the cost of the library more equally among the users while at the same time providing more money for the library. This would allow us to continue providing quality services to everyone.

It is vital that we have the ability to fund our library adequately into the future in order to continue growth. Our library is one of the few places in town that people (especially kids) can go to read, play games (board and video), do homework, use computers, participate in art classes, use free WiFi, and check out materials. We supplement our school district by providing books when the school doesn't have enough and we provide access to books and other materials when the kids are out of school. Our library is a valuable place in our community. Please help give us a chance to ensure our library will have sufficient funding in the future by passing the bill and allowing the people of our community to decide what they want for the future generations.

Warm regards,

**Monica Rupp**  
**Udall Public Library**  
**Board President**

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