

Contact: Public Information Office  
ELBERT COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRESS  
RELEASE  
Phone: 720-639-5850  
Email: [PIO@ElbertCounty-CO.gov](mailto:PIO@ElbertCounty-CO.gov)  
Twitter: @ElbertCoPIO

215 Comanche Street  
Post Office Box 7  
Kiowa, CO 80177

**ELBERT COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT  
PRESS RELEASE**

# Press Release

## **Library Requests Halt of Implementation of Committee Appointments Policy County Commissioners Disappointed with Library Board Action**

**Kiowa, CO, January 17, 2018:** Last month, on 20 December, the Elbert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted unanimously to approve a policy regarding selection and appointment of citizens to county advisory and executive boards, commissions and committees. The purpose of the policy is to ensure transparency in the process of advertising vacancies and selection of appointees, provide for a mix of new ideas and experience on these bodies, and support greater geographical diversity and representation in these important roles.

Today, the BOCC was served with notice that the Board of Trustees of the Pines & Plains Library (Elbert County Library District) has requested an injunction blocking the implementation of this policy. In Colorado, library districts are the only governments empowered to levy and spend taxpayer dollars whose leadership is not elected by the people they serve. The Commissioners recognize that the Library Board has the statutory authority to nominate trustees and request ratification of their appointment. The BOCC is responsible for considering their recommended nominees on behalf of the taxpayers.

In regard to the injunction, Commissioner Willcox stated, "Obviously, the BOCC wants to ensure compliance with the law while ensuring adequate oversight of self-selected bodies such as the library board of trustees. As the legislative body that appoints these trustees, we have a clear duty to our taxpayers."

The initial draft of this policy was first discussed in a public meeting nearly one year ago in February 2017. It was then also an agenda item multiple times throughout the year prior to adoption. In June of 2017, the attorney for the Library Board provided the BOCC with a list of concerns and requests for clarification. These items were considered and changes were made to address those concerns in the final adopted version. No additional concerns were expressed to the BOCC prior by the Library Board initiating this legal action.

"Both the BOCC and the Library Board are charged with serving the people of the county in an open transparent manner. This policy was intended to support more openness. I am disappointed that the Library Trustees would choose to pursue a costly legal action rather than simply request a meeting to work through their apparent concerns", stated Commissioner Richardson.

At issue appears to be some differences in what the Commissioners have stated as the characteristics they are looking for in appointees and those established by the Library Board for their nominees. However, the policy doesn't place any restrictions on who the Trustee's may nominate. It simply ensures careful scrutiny and unanimity from the BOCC if a nominee doesn't meet the broad requirements set for appointment to any of the county's boards, commissions, or committees.

A copy of the approved policy can be found at: [http://www.elbertcounty-co.gov/bocc\\_policies.php](http://www.elbertcounty-co.gov/bocc_policies.php)

###

**For Immediate Release**