



# WHITTIER CENTRAL LIBRARY

## INFORMATION ABOUT MEASURE L

### ROLE AND HISTORY OF WHITTIER CENTRAL LIBRARY SERVICE TO RESIDENTS

The Whittier Central Library is a vital community resource that plays a central role in our community. Providing 923 programs annually, the Library helps children, teens, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities learn to read, prepare for jobs, use computers and succeed in school.

Since it was built in 1959, annual visits to the Central Library have significantly increased (from 55,000 to 600,000 visits per year), outgrowing the space necessary to meet current community demand.

### CHALLENGES TO MEETING INCREASED DEMAND FOR 21ST-CENTURY INFORMATION RESOURCES

The combination of the increasing need for access to informational resources in today's world and the City's population growth has resulted in a lack of adequate space to accommodate the library programs and services upon which our community relies. In addition, the aging facility needs repairs and updates to meet current seismic safety standards and modern technology requirements so people of all ages and backgrounds have access to the necessary 21st-century information resources they need.

### LOCAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT LIBRARY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR WHITTIER RESIDENTS

To address the needs of our library and the residents it serves, on August 8, 2017 the Whittier City Council voted to place Measure L – a \$22 million library bond measure – on the November 7, 2017 ballot. If approved by 66.7% of Whittier voters, funds from Measure L would be used to:

-  Provide improved access for seniors and disabled residents
-  Expand the computer and technology center and update wiring to accommodate new technology
-  Provide a children's area with space for story times, reading with parents, book collections and age appropriate technology
-  Expand the Veterans Resource Center to improve services to veterans and their families
-  Provide an enhanced homework center with more computer workstations for students

### MEASURE L FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

-  By law, all funds must only be used for the Whittier Central library and cannot be taken by the State
-  The proposed measure would cost property owners \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) annually
-  Requires an independent citizens' oversight committee to review expenditures and annual audits to ensure funds are spent as promised
-  Measure L is part of a multi-level funding stream for the library, which includes private donations and responsible use of City funds



### FACTS ABOUT THE WHITTIER CENTRAL LIBRARY

Since the Library was built in 1959:

-  156% increase in city population, from 33,870 to over 87,000
-  180% increase in Library collection growth, from 80,000 holding to over 224,000
-  125% increase in Library annual circulation and material usage, from 200,000 to 450,000
-  Annual visits to the Central Library have significantly increased from 55,000 to 600,000 visits per year
-  Provides 923 Library programs annually

