



BARIGHT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Community Needs Response Plan 2026 – 2031

Approved by
Library Board of Trustees
September 17, 2026

Library Mission Statement

The Helen and Hollis Baright Public Library strives to inform, enrich and empower the Ralston community and surrounding area residents by providing current educational, informational, and recreational library services and materials in an accessible and efficient manner that promotes lifelong learning.

Library Vision Statement

The Baright Public Library will strive to become the community center in Ralston to meet the future educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community.

Executive Summary

The Planning Team, Process, and Plan

The Baright Library Board, the Library Director, and library employees along with the Mayor, Council and City staff provided leadership for the 2026-2031 plan. Recognizing the importance of the planning, implementation, and evaluation phases of strategic planning, the Library Board and Library staff review progress at every board meeting and review the plan annually. After the annual review and analysis by staff members and board members, an annual action plan is developed.

Emerging over the past few years is a new group of businesspeople who are working on the implementation of the City's 2014-2034 Comprehensive Plan. Building on the established needs and subsequent goals within the Comprehensive Plan, city leaders began an in-depth planning process for the Hinge Redevelopment project, an essential economic portion of the 20-year plan. Comparing the identified community needs in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Hinge Redevelopment Plan to the Library's 2026 Community Survey provided direction to the library's planning team for 2026-2031.

The Library's priorities of community-based library services, technology and programs will continue into 2027, despite being a part of past plans, as they are integral to the Library's overall success in providing a better future for Ralston.

Community Profile of Ralston – the Small Town in the Heart of the Metro

Ralston, a small community of 1.64 square miles surrounded by Omaha on three sides and Sarpy County on the south, is primarily contained between 72nd Street (on the east); 84th Street (on the west); L Street (on the north); and Harrison Street (on the south). Ralston also includes Fair View Heights (bordered by 84th Street, Monroe Street, 90th Street, and Harrison Street), and the Woodbine area (bordered by Harrison Street, Y Street, 90th , and 96th Streets).

Many people believe Ralston's boundaries are larger as they consider the school district and the surrounding businesses to be in Ralston. To add even more to this sense of identity confusion is the fact that the ZIP code 68127 encompasses all of Ralston and parts of Omaha. The Ralston Public School District includes the City of Ralston plus a portion of Omaha. Four elementary schools (Karen Western, Meadows, Mockingbird, and Blumfield) are in the school district but outside the city limits of Ralston. Within the city limits of Ralston are two public elementary schools (Seymour and Wildewood), one parochial school (St. Gerald's Elementary), one middle school (Ralston Middle School), and one high school (Ralston High School).

The Baright Public Library's service agreements incorporate the school district and Douglas County. In 1994, through an Inter-local Cooperation Agreement, Douglas County agreed to fund all Douglas County public libraries to make them available to all Douglas County residents.

The community has close ties with local churches and their active congregations -- Trinity United Methodist, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Gerald's Catholic Church, the Ralston United Church of Christ, and the First Church of the Nazarene. Some members of these congregations continue their membership when they move outside of Ralston.

Civic groups include the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce, the Ralston Optimists, and the volunteer Ralston Archives Museum.

Community and economic development are important in Ralston. Ralston, an All-Nebraska City, became a City of the First Class after the 1980 U.S. Census population count. In 2011, Ralston voters approved the construction of an ice arena and event center. The Ralston Arena changed its name after Liberty First Credit Union purchased the naming rights. The arena, along with its name change, is now being operated by the management company Oak View Group. However, the City is still heavily involved with the arena financially

The annual Independence Day Celebration is an important annual event for residents, attracting tens of thousands of visitors each year; hitting its 66th year mark in 2026, the celebration is proof of the

sense of Ralston tradition and pride. With the suburban feel of the greater Omaha metro area, but the idyllic small-town feel, Ralston provides a comfortable, tight-knit community feel for residents.

Demographics

Despite containment from all sides, the City of Ralston has grown from 5,943 residents on the 2010 census to an estimated 6,382 residents in the 2025 census population estimates due to an increase in apartment buildings within city limits. Looking at the age of residents in comparison to other geographic regions in the area, Ralston has a median age of 37.3 which is lower than the 42.4 in 2010, while the larger Douglas County area hits 35.7 and the state of Nebraska at 37.4. The community is 73.8.% white, 24.3.3% Hispanic, and 0.9% African American.

Educational attainment:

- Persons 25 years and older with High School Education only: 31.1%
- Persons 25 years and older with 4 Year College Degree or Higher: 21.1%

It was shown through the Census data that the predominant language spoken in Ralston homes is English; 19.3%% reported another language was spoken in the home by persons over the age of 5, which is an increase from 13% in 2017.

Also, according to 2023 estimates, the median household income was \$69,403, slightly lower than the \$80,391 of Douglas County. Homeownership is 63.3.%, and 30.1% of the 3,292 housing units are multi-unit structures. Of the occupied housing units in Ralston, 65.2% of them have 2.25 or more persons per household.

The chart below shows that Ralston has a notably higher percentage of residents under 5 years old (7.6%) compared to the other cities and the state average. Increasing the number of 15-to 25-year-olds is a goal of the City's Comprehensive Plan, and the current chart shows that Ralston (16.6%) has a high percentage of residents aged 25–34, above the state (13.0%) and Omaha (15.6%). While Ralston used to lead in having the largest cohort of 65+, we no longer lead. However, we have the highest number of 85+ individuals in the entire area.

Age Cohort	Ralston	Papillion	La Vista	Omaha	Nebraska
Under 5	7.6%	4.6%	4.6%	6.5%	6.1%
5 to 9	7.0%	5.4%	5.6%	6.5%	6.7%
10 to 14	5.7%	6.5%	7.4%	6.9%	6.8%
15 to 19	3.2%	7.3%	8.7%	7.2%	7.2%
20 to 24	7.1%	6.4%	8.7%	7.3%	7.1%
25 to 34	16.6%	12.3%	17.6%	15.6%	13.0%
35 to 44	12.4%	13.6%	11.2%	13.0%	13.2%
45 to 54	11.2%	12.2%	13.4%	10.9%	11.1%
55 to 59	6.1%	7.1%	5.3%	5.2%	5.4%
60 to 64	7.2%	8.1%	5.4%	5.2%	6.0%
65 to 74	9.1%	10%	7.7%	9.2%	10.1%
75 to 84	5.1%	4.9%	3.2%	4.8%	5.3%
85+	2.1%	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%

Planning Process

In 2025, the Ralston City Council, Mayor, and staff attended a series of workshops in 2025 to engage in strategic assessment and planning for the City of Ralston, Nebraska. The workshops aligned elected officials and key staff on long-term vision, identified community priorities, and outlined the approach for community goals. Resulting from the process was a clear vision for the community and measurable goals and milestones to further that vision, ensure accountability, and inform future decisions including upcoming annual budget development. These guiding principles will shape the long-term goals, immediate strategies, and resource allocation for the city.

The Library conducted its own survey in Summer 2026, which included open-ended questions regarding important issues or needs facing the Ralston community and what the library could do or offer to better serve community needs.

The Strategic Plan identified the top Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Community:

Strengths: “The City of Ralston boasts several significant strengths that contribute to its vibrant and welcoming community. Under the proactive leadership of Mayor Groesser and the City Council, the city excels in effectively communicating with residents and promptly addressing their concerns. The staff and volunteers are of high quality and approachable, ensuring that community needs are met efficiently. Ralston has successfully managed its finances by improving its financial rating and paying off debt, which has allowed the city to attract new developers and utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for redevelopment.

The city hosts several community events, such as the Independence Day Celebration and Holiday Magic, which showcase Ralston's lively spirit. Public safety measures are strong, and the parks, including the recently added dog park, are well-maintained, enhancing the quality of life for residents. Despite being part of a large metropolitan area, Ralston maintains a charming small-town feel. The city also offers quality library services and benefits from thoughtful and helpful elected members, further fostering a sense of community and pride among its inhabitants.”

The Library partners with the City to host Holiday Magic, provides parking and restroom facilities for Tunes in Town Square, secures movie licensing for Movies on the Green, and provided staging and showcase space for an inaugural art festival. The Library also connects to the community in the city parks through Storywalk, Novel Adventures, and Out and About Storytimes. Baright is open seven days a

week and provides programming to all age groups, free Wi-Fi, free meeting room reservations, cultural passes to area attractions, and free tickets to the Omaha Symphony.

Weaknesses: “One of the foremost issues is the city's limited resources. As a small city, Ralston does not have the financial capacity and extensive infrastructure that larger cities possess. This scarcity of funds often hampers the execution of larger projects, leaving the city overextended by deferred maintenance and unforeseen repairs. The aging infrastructure, including streets, sewers, and housing, adds an additional layer of complexity, demanding significant investment that the current budget struggles to support.”

“Within the local economy, many small businesses are struggling in the current economic climate, limiting their ability to contribute time and financial support to community initiatives. Moreover, the city's focus on "service" businesses rather than unique retail establishments and restaurants means that residents often seek goods and services outside of Ralston.”

Ralston's current lack of a community or senior center was a spotlight issue in the 2026 Library Survey. Due to its central location in the city and a lack of competing entertainment, the Library is poised to assume the role of community center within its own limitations. When the senior center closed, the Library introduced a “Lunch N Learn” series aimed at providing cultural and educational programs along with a free lunch. The popularity of the series expanded into a Saturday series to reach families that were not able to attend a Thursday program. In an effort to support local businesses, the Library prioritizes catering through Ralston businesses and also partnered with Lovely Brew and the Ralston Community Theater for an after-hours adult event at the brewery. Library-themed candles created by the local business Good Life are available for purchase at the circulation desk.

Opportunities: “Increasing housing options and developing new retail establishments remain priorities. Plans also include creating a downtown entertainment zone, improving walkability, and supporting continued population growth. A major focus is placed on economic development and attracting new residents to the city. As additional apartments are constructed, there is an expectation that more small businesses will be drawn to the area. Looking ahead, the city is progressing toward completing the Hinge redevelopment within the next five to ten years.”

Challenges: “Several factors need consideration when assessing the city's future development plans. The condition and size of current buildings play a significant role, as does the availability of funds

that determine the timing of property acquisitions. Striking a balance between residential and commercial spaces remains important, while existing agreements must also be honored.

“Future funding is uncertain, especially due to potential state and federal budget cuts. This necessitates exploring creative solutions, such as reconsidering the \$.45 lid. Trends in the investment market will influence opportunities, alongside the city’s broader financial resources, prevailing interest rates, and overall affordability.”

SWOC Summary

“The City of Ralston faces several challenges including limited resources, aging infrastructure, and financial constraints. Despite these issues, the city benefits from strong leadership, community engagement, and successful financial management. Key opportunities include downtown revitalization, increased housing options, and attracting new residents. Ralston's strategic plan focuses on supporting local businesses, enhancing walkability, and developing entertainment zones. The city aims to balance residential and commercial spaces while addressing funding and staffing limitations. Future development hinges on creative financial solutions and attracting developer interest. With concerted efforts in strategic planning, infrastructure investment, and inclusive communication, Ralston is poised to achieve sustainable growth and a vibrant community.”

The City’s Comprehensive Plan provided rich data and several community goals. In 2019 as the library approached its next phase of planning, it was decided to build on the City’s Plan as well as the latest updates to the Hinge planning process, and to avoid duplicating them. The Board worked with the Library Director and staff on a survey to ask the public more about their thoughts on the community, the Hinge project, and the role of the library for the future.

From June 1-15, 2026, the Library’s survey was distributed via paper within the library, online through its website and in the electronic newsletter. The library translated the survey in Spanish for the first time as well. It was also distributed in a digital format via Google Form that was on the library’s website. Several outlets were used to distribute the digital survey, including the school, city, library and other local organizations via their subsequent online and social media presence. Overall, there were 11 paper responses and 184 submitted online surveys.

To get a picture of the community’s feelings about Ralston, the survey asked participants to describe the quality of life in Ralston. Several prominent descriptive terms bubbled to the top that showed an overall positive vibe: safe, stable, friendly, diverse, comfortable, community, small-town feeling, connected, involved, and quiet.

Despite the overwhelming positive feelings about the community itself, participants did have some concerns when asked, “What do you think are the most important issues or needs facing the Ralston Community today?” The top responses focused on economic growth, increases in taxing, housing, and providing community events and engagement.

Survey respondents were also asked what they would most like to see in the future or continue to see from the library. Many stated that they would like the library to continue what it has done in the past: be a meeting space for people to gather, a place for people to educate themselves, and a hub of knowledge for what is going on in the community.

This year, the board will approve the five-year Community Needs Response Plan that will last from 2026-2031. The Board and Library staff review the plan every year and prepare an action plan for the next year. The current year is posted on the library website at www.ralstonlibrary.org

Community Needs

Community Need One

Ralston is characterized by lower incomes and growing public concern about how rising taxes affect residents’ financial stability. Data from the Census’ American Community Survey show that Ralston’s median household income is nearly \$11,000 less than that of other households in Douglas County, highlighting the community’s economic challenges. Demographic analysis and staff observations show that Ralston is home to many young families and seniors, two groups particularly vulnerable to economic pressures. The northern part of Ralston features a high concentration of small, affordable homes, further underscoring the prevalence of modest means within the community. Taken together, these data points and firsthand observations strongly suggest that a substantial portion of Ralston’s residents rely on fixed or limited incomes, making affordability and access to essential services critical concerns for the community.

1. Provide cultural experiences and learning opportunities for families and patrons that may be financially out of reach.
 - a. Partner with cultural centers such as the Omaha Symphony, Ralston Theater, and Omaha Zoo to provide free tickets to events or the institution.
 - b. Invites these partners to provide programming at the library. We will continue our work with the American Ballet Company of the Midwest to highlight their programs such as *The Nutcracker* and bring the company to do a storytime/ballet with our Youth Librarian.

2. Ralston Public Schools has an initiative to bring literacy levels up across all grades. Currently, over half of the students cannot read at grade level. Working with the district, the Library will focus on finding ways to support the school's plan in ways that are meaningful for our families and the library's mission.
 - a. The Library Director will work with the school administration to implement getting a library card for every child in the Ralston school district.
 - b. The Youth Librarian will implement the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program. They will provide a storytime at every preschool in the school district and talk about the program.
 - c. In the monthly newsletter from the school district, the library will provide a reading tips and tricks section throughout the school year.
3. Staff are considering a proposal to present to City Council that outlines a step-by-step process for implementing going fine-free and fee-free that would benefit both the community and the library. The first proposed change is to remove daily overdue fines for all patrons. Next, we will eliminate fees for lost and damaged materials, and in the final stage, eliminate fees for printing and copying services. Each of these potential changes will require further investigation regarding their impact on library revenue, patron privacy, and patrons' responsibility for borrowed items.
 - a. The Library Director and Assistant Director will work with the city's Finance Director to determine the impact on our overall budget. With the board's support, we will implement a step-by-step process to eliminate all library fines and fees.
4. The library will focus on providing services to the large Latino population in our area. From the 2010 census to 2025, the percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home rose from 3% to 19%. The Ralston school district is also a majority non-white school.
 - a. Recruit and hire bilingual library assistants to help provide better service to our Spanish-speaking residents.
 - b. Update and grow our Spanish collection across all areas.
 - c. Work with the Latino Center of the Midlands to provide programs at the library such as ESL classes. We will apply to get an intern from them in the summer of 2027.
 - d. Prioritize translating all informational items into Spanish.

Community Need Two

Because Ralston lacks a senior center and has the second-highest cohort of residents aged 65+, the Library has prioritized developing additional programs and services for seniors. Over the next year, the main focus will be partnerships and connections with groups already serving this population. The Ralston Senior Center closed in 2023, which allowed the city to find new opportunities for our seniors and decide where to direct funding. The library became the most natural place to continue providing services for our seniors. This has been a goal in the past, and we've made headway through several successful services: a regular evening book club, technology sessions for all ages, and annually scheduled programs with AARP.

1. Because some residents have limited mobility and limited transportation to the library, staff will conduct a feasibility study on implementing a homebound program for Ralston residents. The program would be limited to cardholders within the city limits.
 - a. The Director will work with the Library Board to set criteria for who qualifies for homebound services. Working with staff, we will create guidelines for loan periods, item limits, and the fine structure.
 - b. Staff will research and determine a delivery method to reach homebound residents with library materials.
 - c. By partnering with groups already working with this population, the library will promote the program through our weekly newsletter and social media.
2. Our recent survey showed a need for more adult programming. We want to offer consistent programming year-round and will allocate more resources toward adult programs.
 - a. Appoint one of our part-time library assistants to focus on programs and services for our 65+ patrons.
 - b. To keep programming consistent, we will designate one day and time each week for older-adult programming. By providing a mix of lifelong learning, creativity, and physical activities each week, we can evaluate which programs are most successful and expand them. In Fall of 2026, we will launch adult programs including a bridge club, tai chi instruction, and a painting series.
 - c. Finding funding to expand programs or add speakers will be a priority for the Director and Assistant Director, who will research and apply for grants to build capacity into our budget and provide quality programming or staff training.

3. The city has a special services bus available through a partnership with the City of La Vista. The bus is available by appointment and charges \$1-10 per trip, depending on the trip's proximity to Ralston and La Vista. If the trip is within Ralston, La Vista, and selected designated locations, the fare is \$1. Tickets can be purchased from the bus driver or at the La Vista Community Center.
 - a. The library will market the service inside the library, on social media, and in the weekly newsletter to drive ridership and inform residents.
 - b. Working in partnership with the Special Services staff, the library will become another location where tickets can be purchased to ride the bus.
4. At the library, one of our highest circulating collections is large print. To make it more accessible to our senior population, we moved the collection to the beginning of our shelves in the adult section rather than the back wall. Because of demand for large print, we want to expand the collection and provide more variety in titles.
 - a. The Director will allocate more of the materials budget to large print. Staff will analyze our large print collection to identify gaps and missing titles and begin building a more robust collection based on our current circulation data.

Community Need Three

The City of Ralston faces several challenges, including limited resources, aging infrastructure, and financial constraints. Despite these issues, the city benefits from strong leadership, community engagement, and successful financial management. Key opportunities include revitalizing downtown, expanding housing options, and attracting new residents. Ralston's strategic plan focuses on supporting local businesses, enhancing walkability, and developing entertainment zones. The city aims to balance residential and commercial spaces while addressing funding and staffing limitations.

Bringing revenue-generating businesses into downtown remains a key strategy for serving both Ralston residents and people from surrounding communities. By supporting sustainability through sales tax initiatives and encouraging property growth, the city aims to increase its overall tax revenue.

Increasing housing options and developing new retail establishments remain priorities. Plans also include creating a downtown entertainment zone, improving walkability, and supporting continued population growth. The city is focusing heavily on economic development and attracting new residents. As additional apartments are built, the city expects more small businesses to move into the area. Looking ahead, the city is progressing toward completing the Hinge redevelopment within the next five

to ten years. In 2024, the city declared an area of Ralston the 'Ralston Arts & Creative District' to "use the Arts to attract residents, businesses, and creative economy entrepreneurs to the community." The library falls within the area, so we have been active in the arts district plans.

A strong local economy supports quality of life, and survey respondents identified a need for more retail businesses, green space, and other development projects. With community partners, the library will promote Ralston as a place to live and do business. The City of Ralston's strategic plan focuses on downtown revitalization, supporting local businesses, enhancing walkability, and developing entertainment zones. The library is located in the center of town next to City Hall. Naturally, it serves as a gathering point for community events such as Holiday Magic, Tunes in Town Square, wine walks, street dances, and the Independence Parade. The library will continue working to increase educational, cultural, and entertainment programming for the community. The library is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning for our local patrons.

1. Promoting businesses in Ralston will be an important part of the library's role. The library will partner with new businesses moving into the Hinge Overlay District and downtown retail spaces by increasing their visibility with the public. Library staff will highlight these businesses through a section of the library e-newsletter, in-house display cases, and programming to inform residents about their services.
 - a. The Assistant Director and Marketing Coordinator will work together on newsletter and display case materials through direct marketing. Success for this objective would be a regularly scheduled new business or organization featured in both the newsletter and display cases by March 2027.
 - b. When applicable, work with local businesses to partner on programs and events at the library or at the local business. For the artists contributing to the arts and creative district, we will showcase their artwork in the library to tell residents about the district, expand awareness, and promote art in our community.
2. The Library will contribute to the city's mission to broaden and enhance civic engagement, enhance parks and recreation amenities, and expand tourism and entertainment opportunities. The library is well-suited to support these priorities by providing engaging programs for all ages, using our space for community events, and increasing engagement through our marketing.

- a. The programming staff will work closely with the city's Public Relations and Events Specialist to partner on large-scale and annual events such as the Independence Day Parade, Fall Fest, and Holiday Magic.
 - b. Collection development for the library's Library of Things continues to expand lawn games, outdoor activities, and nature exploration items while promoting the city's eight local parks and how to check out items, such as the pickleball court net for use at Adams Park.
- 3. Connect with local development, attend local business meetings, and serve on committees.
 - a. The library will have a permanent board position on Ralston's Creative Arts District to help guide arts and entertainment, promote events through the library's social media and newsletter, and provide a location for events in our meeting room and main library space. We will measure success by event attendance and by bringing in new residents to the library who may not have previously stepped through our doors.

Evaluation of the 2026 -2031 Plan

The Library Director reports on strategic plan activities at every Library Board meeting to ensure continuous review and discussion of the plan. The Board and staff review the plan annually and prepare an annual action plan that is then delivered to the City Council.

Library staff, the trustees, and other key players will evaluate the plan annually and adjust target objectives as warranted.

Many of the objectives will be initiated in 2027, as some of the community needs can be addressed quickly, such as getting every student in the Ralston school district a library card. However, some of the goals and objectives will take time to research fully and put into action, or they may take recruitment of additional players and organizations to implement. Sustaining the programs and determining how long to continue repeating them will be points of discussion for our planners and community as well.

In late 2029 and early 2030, the next planning team will decide how to use the library's successes and failures, the progress on the City's 2014-2034 Comp Plan, and other community milestones in the next planning process.

Planning Teams

The Library's Plan has been developed through the endeavors of the following:

Library Board: Melanie Bloom (President), Sharon Medina, Jim O'Donnell, Edie Vaughan, and Angela Ritchey

Library Staff: Amanda Peña, Emily McIllece, Ashlee Gibson, Katie Adams, and Megan Liu

Olsson Consulting Firm worked with community members, local businesses, and several other key players directly to acquire input:

City Staff

Mayor Don Groesser
Jack Cheloha – City Administrator
Maura Kelly – City Clerk
Tim Bohling – Finance Director
Greg Dittmer – Director of Public Works
Marc Leonardo – Chief of Police
Amanda Peña – Director of Library

Planning Committee: Amy Roeder, Don Groesser, Jerry Krause, Jack Cheloha Tim Bohling, Tom Kjar, Bill Haas, Rich Onken, Mark Norman, Megan Skiles, Mark Klinker, Debi Martines, Deniz Bodkin, Kelsey Ostendorf, Dan Freshman

JEO Consulting Group worked with the following Comprehensive Plan Participants:

City Staff:

Mayor Don Groesser
Dolores Costanzo – City Clerk/Treasurer
Becky Schendt – Deputy Clerk
Ginger Boone – Deputy Treasurer
Jamie Kramer – Administrative Assistant
Dan Freshman – Director of Public Works
Ronald Murtaugh – Chief of Police and Ralston Arena
Francine Canfield – Director of Library

Planning Committee: Jason Frink, Don Groesser, Tom Kjar, Mark Klinker, Jerry Krause, Scott Lacey, Tara Lea, Scott Nigro, Rich Onken, Walt Pepper, Amy Roeder, Michael Sanchez, Dan Walsh



BARIGHT PUBLIC LIBRARY

5555 S. 77th Street Ralston, NE 68127

2026 Library Survey

Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us improve the library! Baright Public Library is gathering feedback from **all** Ralston area residents – both library users and non-users. Your responses will guide our services and programs to better serve the community. This survey is anonymous and should take **fewer than 5 minutes**. We appreciate your time and input!

1. Do you **currently use** Ralston’s Baright Public Library? Circle your answer.

YES

NO (Skip to question 4.)

2. How often do you **visit or use** the library (in person or online)? Circle your answer.

Weekly or more

A few times a month

Once a month

A few times a year

Rarely (once a year or less)

3. **How do you rate the library in the following areas?** (Mark one number for each. **1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent**, or mark N/A if you’re not sure about an area.)

	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Customer service (staff helpfulness)						
Collection (books, movies, etc.)						
Adult programs and events						
Teen programs and events						
Children’s programs and events						
Digital resources (e-books, online tools)						
Library spaces (building, seating, steady areas)						

4. What are the main reason(s) you **don't currently use** the library? (Circle all that apply.)

I'm too busy / no time to visit

I prefer to buy books or use other sources

I don't know what the library offers

It's hard for me to get to the library (location/transportation issues)

I don't think the library has anything for my needs

Other _____

5. Where do you live? Circle your answer.

In Ralston (within ZIP code 68127)

In Omaha

Elsewhere in Douglas County

Other

6. How do you **prefer** to hear about library news, events, or services? (Circle all that apply.)

Library email newsletter

Library Facebook or other social media

Library website or online calendar

Flyers/posters at the library or around town

City of Ralston newsletter/website

Word of mouth (friends, family, etc.)

Other: _____

7. Which library services or features are most important to **you personally**? (Circle **up to 3** options.)

Borrowing materials (books, DVDs, etc.)

Quiet space for reading or study

Computers and internet access

Children's programs and services

Teen/young adult programs and space

Adult programs and classes

Community meeting or event space

Online/digital resources (e-books, audiobooks, databases)

What do you think are the most important issues or needs facing **the Ralston community** today? (Circle up to 3.)

Activities and spaces for teens/young adults

Public safety and crime prevention

Economic growth (jobs, businesses)

Community events and engagement

Access to technology and internet

Educational opportunities and resources

Housing and property taxes

Other _____

8. In your view, what is one thing the library could do or offer to **better serve the community** in the future? (Open-ended, please share any idea or suggestion.)

9. Are you between the ages of 19-25 years old? Circle your answer.

YES (Please continue to question 11.)

NO (The survey is now complete.)

10. In your opinion, which of the following would **most interest or benefit teens and young adults** at the library? (Circle all that apply.)

Homework help/study space – Quiet areas, tutoring or homework help programs

College & career support – College prep resources, job search or career workshops

Social or gaming events – Teen clubs, video game tournaments, movie nights

Creative workshops – Art, music, coding, or writing clubs/projects

Volunteer opportunities – Ways for teens to help or lead within the library

Other:

Thank you for your feedback! Your response will help shape the future of Ralston's Baright Public Library. We appreciate your time and support.