

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 02-094

Expressing Intent to Submit to the Voters a Five-Year Rate Based Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services, and Directing Preparation of Ballot Title

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Voters approved a serial levy in November 1997. It funded library services above the tax revenues permitted by Measure 50 for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003.
- b. The Board considers funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- c. The Board finds that existing and anticipated County revenues are not sufficient for the library services expected by Multnomah County residents.
- d. The Board determines that for sufficient funding it is necessary to renew the 1997 levy, establishing a new County library tax levy to begin on July 1, 2003.
- e. On May 21, 2002, approximately 59% of those voting approved a renewal of the Multnomah County Library Levy for five fiscal years commencing July 1, 2002. The measure was not approved because less than 50% of those registered to vote cast ballots in that election.
- f. The Board believes that the results of the May election reflected Multnomah County residents' appreciation for the high quality of the County library system – a library with an annual circulation of 23 books for every man, woman and child in the County; a library that provides literacy programs for children, assistance for small business owners, and special services for seniors; a library that provides exceptional value to taxpayers.
- g. The levy on the May 21, 2002 ballot would have established a tax rate of 75.5 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. When that levy was submitted to voters, the Board anticipated that the levy and other revenues

would continue library operations and restore Monday hours at the busiest libraries.

- h. The Board now has information that due to the Oregon Supreme Court decision in *Shilo*, relating to urban renewal, a levy of 75.5 cents per thousand will likely raise several hundred thousand dollars per year less than previously calculated.
- i. The Board will consider an appropriate response to this information prior to submitting a renewal levy to voters.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The Board intends to submit to the voters at the November 5, 2002 general election a renewal of the 1997 five-year library levy at a rate to be determined, but no less than 75.5 cents per thousand. It instructs the County Attorney to prepare the ballot title and explanatory statement.

ADOPTED this 27th day of June 2002.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney