

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Referring To The Voters A Ballot Measure To Approve Formation Of A Multnomah County Library District And Permanent Rate

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In November 2010, the voters amended the Multnomah County Charter and established a method under which the Board of County Commissioners may form a library district upon voter approval. See Multnomah County Home Rule Charter Chapter IX, Library District, as adopted by voter approved Ballot Measure 26-114, and as recommended by the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee.
- b. On January 5, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-004 referring a three-year local option levy to the May 2012 primary election. The resolution recognized "that the best long-term funding solution for the library is the formation of an independent library district. If Multnomah County voters approve the three-year local option levy, which will provide the Library with temporary financial stability, the Board will refer a district measure to the ballot in November 2012."
- c. A three-year local option library levy was approved at the May 2012 primary election by 84.53% of those voting.
- d. On June 28, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners initiated the process to explore formation of a Multnomah County Library District by Order No. 2012-089.
- e. Public input was solicited on the internet, during public listening sessions, and at a July 31, 2012, public hearing.
- f. Providing library services in Multnomah County is a matter of county concern and Multnomah County is the only provider of public library services within the County.
- g. Formation of a Library District with a permanent rate is in the public interest, will serve the needs of the community, and will provide a stable long-term source of funding.
- h. The name of the library district is the Multnomah County Library District, and its boundaries will include all territory within Multnomah County.
- i. Upon voter approval, the Library District will be funded by a permanent rate of \$1.24 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning July 2013.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Multnomah County Library District is formed upon voter approval.
2. The ballot title and explanatory statement, attached hereto and marked as Exhibits A and B are approved for submission to the Multnomah County Division of Elections for the November 2012 general election.

3. The County Attorney will certify form SEL 801, the Notice of County Measure Election, as required by law.
4. Following certification, the board clerk shall submit this resolution, ballot title, form SEL 801, and explanatory statement for the voter's pamphlet to the Multnomah County Elections Director for further action as required by law.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of August, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MORF, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Jenny M. Morf, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:
Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County Chair

EXHIBIT A
BALLOT MEASURE ____

CAPTION:

Form Library District with permanent rate to fund library services

QUESTION:

Shall dedicated library district fund Multnomah county library hours, services; rate limited to \$1.24 per \$1000 assessed value beginning 2013?

BALLOT SUMMARY:

If approved, the Multnomah County Library District would be formed with a permanent rate dedicated to library services, operations, books, materials, programs, activities and oversight of the district. Its boundaries would include all territory within Multnomah County. Formation of a District would do the following:

- Provide permanent and dedicated library funding up to \$1.24 per \$1000 of assessed value;
- Restore and retain library services such as summer reading, books, student and jobseeker support, and outreach to senior citizens;
- Prevent reductions in services, programs and activities, and hours.

Library services are a matter of county concern and the District will have the powers granted to library districts and public libraries under state and local law.

The formation of a District will ensure a dedicated long-term funding source for library services, allowing libraries to retain educational resources and programming. The Board of County Commissioners, sitting as the Library District Board, will serve as the governing board of the District to provide oversight and accountability. A Library Advisory Board will provide community input.

EXHIBIT B

VOTER'S PAMPHLET EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

Library services are currently provided by Multnomah County and funded through general fund dollars and a serial levy. These funding sources are not stable. The County's general fund has experienced budget shortfalls and a library serial levy requires voter approval every three to five years. This year, Multnomah County Libraries had to reduce services by 14% including cutting hours to 44 per week – the lowest of any library system in the region. Library programs for kids, families, senior citizens and jobseekers, book budgets and staffing have also been cut.

Formation of a Library District will secure a permanent source of funding for Library services in the County. All dollars collected for the library district would go only to library services. Library funds could not be used for other programs.

If approved, the Multnomah County Library District will be formed with a permanent rate up to \$1.24 per \$1000 of assessed value. The typical homeowner will pay \$49 a year above the cost of the current levy of \$.89 per \$1000 assessed value. The boundaries of the District will include all territory within Multnomah County.

The newly formed Multnomah County Library District will provide:

- **Libraries:** Hours at all 19 library branches including Central Library
- **Books,** research documents and other materials
- **Trained Staff:** Library staff answers 870,000 reference questions a year.
- **Career & Employment Services:** Library services for jobseekers, small business owners, and English language learners
- **Internet:** Free computer and internet services for those without access at home
- **Programs and activities:** for school age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, summer reading, literacy services for children in child care, homework help, programs for teens and programs helping parents teach their kids to read
- **Summer Reading:** Over 100,000 kids participated in this year's Library's Summer Reading program, including the majority of the county's elementary school children
- **Events for kids and teens:** Nearly 255,000 people attend each year.
- **Book delivery** to homebound seniors and assisted living residents
- **Remote Online Access:** 24/7 online access to information, learning resources, and the library catalog

Among US libraries serving fewer than 1 million residents, Multnomah County Library ranks No. 1 in annual circulation of books and materials, according to the 2012 Public Library Data Service Statistical Report.

Providing library services is a matter of county concern and the voters authorized this method of formation in November 2010. The Library District will have the powers granted to districts and public libraries by state law and by the Charter. There are currently 25 library districts around the state of Oregon.

The Board of County Commissioners, sitting as the Library District Board, will serve as the governing board of the new Library District to provide oversight and accountability to the public. A Library Advisory Board will be formed to provide community input on matters of library services.