

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-129**

Submitting to the Voters a Five-Year Rate Based Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The Multnomah County Library Levy was approved by voters in the November 2002 general election. The levy and other revenues fund library services for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2003.
- b. The Board considers funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- c. The Board determines that for sufficient funding for the library services expected by County residents, it is necessary to renew and replace the 2002 levy, establishing a new County library tax levy.
- d. If a new levy is not approved in an even-numbered year general election, it must be passed by a majority vote at an election where at least 50% of registered voters cast a ballot. (Section 11(8), Article XI of Oregon Constitution)
- e. The Board determines it is in the public interest to replace the final year of the 2002 levy with a new County library tax levy and submit the measure to voters at the November 7, 2006, general election.
- f. The new levy is for five fiscal years commencing July 1, 2007. It is anticipated to raise \$33 million in 2007-08; \$34.1 million in 2008-09; \$35.3 million in 2009-10; \$36.5 million in 2010-11; and \$37.8 million in 2011-12.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

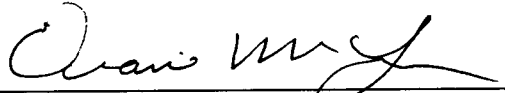
1. An election is called for the November 7, 2006, general election to submit the Ballot Title measure adopted as Exhibit A and the Explanatory Statement adopted as Exhibit B to the electors of Multnomah County for funding library services.

2. The Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement are certified, and will be filed with the County Director of Elections, and published in accordance with law.
3. The Library Local Option Levy will be outside the limitations of Article XI, Section 11, Oregon Constitution.

ADOPTED this 20th day of July 2006.




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **BALLOT TITLE**

#### **CAPTION:**

**MEASURE 26-81**

Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services

#### **QUESTION:**

Shall Multnomah County continue library services with levy of 89.0 cents per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2007?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The library levy approved by voters in 2002 will expire in 2008. It provides over half of the library's funds. Renewal will keep libraries open, maintain hours and services, and open two planned branches. If not renewed, some libraries will close, others will be open fewer hours, and library services will be greatly reduced.

Renewing the levy will:

- Continue programs for school age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, summer reading, literacy services for children in child care, programs for teens.
- Help teachers and students use library resources; provide homework helpers to assist children with school work.
- Maintain free access to information; update books and materials.
- Continue book delivery to homebound seniors and nursing home residents.
- Open planned libraries in underserved neighborhoods of East County and North Portland.
- Keep libraries open; maintain current hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries.

The levy raises approximately \$33 million in 2007-08; \$34.1 million in 2008-09; \$35.3 million in 2009-10; \$36.5 million in 2010-11; and \$37.8 million in 2011-12.

This levy replaces the current voter-approved library levy. The estimated cost to a homeowner of an average value single family home will be \$11.13 a month.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate.

# **EXHIBIT B**

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **MEASURE 26-81**

#### **Continue Multnomah County Library Services**

Measure 26-81 will replace the current library levy. Its cost will be 89 cents per \$1,000 assessed value per year. According to the County Department of Assessment and Taxation, the average single family home would pay about \$11.13 per month for this levy.

#### **RESULT OF A 'YES' VOTE**

Measure 26-81 provides over half the library's funds. Voting yes will renew funding for current library programs and services.

#### **Library Services Expected To Be Maintained Include:**

- Library services for young and school-aged children – story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help, summer reading, and services for children in child care;
- Multnomah County libraries open at least six days a week for an average of 53-58 hours each;
- Central Library and neighborhood libraries open Sunday afternoons;
- Services to seniors including computer classes and book delivery for those who are homebound;
- Library services for jobseekers, small business owners, and English language learners;
- Buying new books, magazines, and other library materials.

The library levy will also provide funds to operate planned branches in underserved neighborhoods of North Portland and East County, which will open during the course of this five-year levy.

Measure 26-81 will fund continued hours and services at Multnomah County libraries including Central Library and:

Albina  
Belmont  
Capitol Hill  
Fairview/Columbia  
Gregory Heights  
Gresham  
Hillsdale

Holgate  
Hollywood  
Midland  
North Portland  
Northwest  
Rockwood  
Sellwood-Moreland  
St. Johns  
Woodstock

### **How Are Libraries Used?**

- 52,000 kids participated in the Library's Summer Reading program in 2005, which includes over half of the county's elementary school children.
- More than 300,000 people attend library programs and events for children and teens each year.
- Each day about 13,000 people visit the 17 libraries.
- An average of 28 books are checked out every year for every man, woman, and child in the county.
- Librarians and library staff provide personal help an average of 90,000 times each week – answering questions, reading stories, checking out books, assisting students after school, and more.
- The library provides 24/7 online access to information, learning resources, and the library catalog.
- Library outreach programs to schools make nearly 120,000 contacts with students and teachers during the school year;

### **RESULT OF A 'NO' VOTE**

The library receives over 55% of its funding from the current voter-approved levy. If the library levy is not renewed, library services will be greatly reduced. New branches will not open, others will be open fewer hours, fewer books will be purchased, and many neighborhood libraries will close.