

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-004

Submitting to the Voters a Three-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 2006 general election. The levy and other revenues fund library services for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2007.
- b. The Board considers funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- c. The Board determines that the best funding option in the current economic environment is a renewal and replacement of the 2006 levy.
- d. The Board determines it is in the public interest to submit the measure to voters at the May 15, 2012, primary election.
- e. The new levy is for three fiscal years commencing July 1, 2012. It is anticipated to raise approximately \$32.6 million in 2012-13; \$ 34.5 million in 2013-14; and \$36.5 million in 2014-15. These revenues are in addition to the tax revenues from the County's permanent property tax rate under Measure 50.
- f. The Board recognizes that a levy renewal at the current rate will not provide sufficient funding to maintain current library services; therefore, the Board will commit an additional \$10 million in one-time-only funding in order to mitigate the reduction in revenue.
- g. The Board will continue its annual County General Fund allocation to the library beginning with an allocation of \$14.9 million in 2012-13.
- h. The Board further recognizes 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.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:


1. An election is called for the May 15, 2012, primary 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 5th day of January, 2012.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen 
Jeff Cogen, Chair

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

By 
Jacqueline Weber, Deputy County Attorney

Exhibit A
BALLOT TITLE

Caption:

Local library funding: continues local option levy at current rate

Question:

Shall county maintain open libraries, programs, services; renew levy of \$0.89 per \$1,000 assessed value for three years beginning 2012?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary:

Multnomah County libraries serve every neighborhood across the county with 18 local branches and Central Library. Two thirds of library funding comes from a voter-approved levy. Renewal of the current levy will keep libraries open and maintain a majority of hours and services. If not renewed, most libraries will close, others will be open fewer hours, and library services will be greatly reduced.

Renewing the library levy will:

Continue programs such as: story hours for babies and toddlers, after-school homework help for school students; summer reading, programs for teens and more;

Help teachers and students use library resources; provide homework helpers to assist children with school work.

Update books and materials; maintain free access to information;

Continue book delivery to homebound senior citizens and retirement home residents.

Fund hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries.

This levy does not raise property taxes. It continues the same rate of the previous library levy approved by voters. Estimated cost for the typical household will remain about \$13 per month for three years.

The levy raises approximately \$32.6 million in 2012-13; \$34.5 million in 2013-14; \$36.5 million in 2014-15. 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

Multnomah County Library serves the community through the Central Library and these 18 branches:

Albina Library	Kenton Library
Belmont Library	Midland Library
Capitol Hill Library	North Portland Library
Fairview/Columbia Library	Northwest Library
Gregory Heights Library	Rockwood Library
Gresham Library	Sellwood-Moreland Library
Hillsdale Library	St. Johns Library
Holgate Library	Troutdale Library
Hollywood Library	Woodstock Library

Facts about the local libraries:

- Each day over 35,000 people visit the 19 libraries, in-person and online.
- An average of 32.8 books are checked out every year for every man, woman, and child in the county.
- Library staff answers over 800,000 reference questions a year.
- 98,000 kids participated in the Library's Summer Reading program in 2011, including over half of the county's elementary school children.
- Library outreach programs to schools make 120,000 contacts with students and teachers during the school year.
- Nearly 300,000 people attend library programs and events for children and teens each year.
- The library provides 24/7 online access to information, learning resources and the library catalog.

RESULT OF A 'YES' VOTE ON Measure 26-__

Measure _____ renews the library levy at the current rate: **That means it will not increase taxes currently being paid for libraries by Multnomah County residents.** The levy will provide the majority of funds for libraries including hours of service, programs and reading materials.

Library Services Include:

- Programs for young and school-aged children – story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help for students, summer reading and more;
- All branches and Central Library open at least six days a week;
- Assistance to senior citizens including computer classes and book delivery for those who are homebound;
- Programs and resources for jobseekers, small business owners, and English language learners;
- New books, magazines and other library materials.

RESULT OF A 'NO' VOTE

The library receives over 60% of its funding from the current voter-approved levy. If the library levy is not renewed, library services – including those for senior citizens, youth and children - will be greatly reduced: Most libraries will close, others will be open fewer hours and fewer books will be purchased.

Cost

The library levy continues the current property tax of \$.89 per \$1,000 assessed property value. It is not a tax increase. According to the County Department of Assessment and Taxation, the typical single family home would continue to pay about \$13.24 a month for this library levy.

Submitted by:

Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County