

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-040**

Adopting Explanatory Statement for Five-Year Rate Based Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services

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

- a. Measure 50 superseded the 1996 three-year library levy.
- b. 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.
- c. The revenues from the 1997 levy were less than anticipated. "Compression" resulted from the \$10 limitation on general government property taxes imposed by Measure 5. Revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002 are now estimated at more than \$2.5 million less than at the 1997 election.
- d. The Board considers funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- e. The Board finds that existing and anticipated County revenues are not sufficient for the library services expected by Multnomah County residents.
- f. The Board determines that for sufficient funding it is necessary to replace the final year of the 1997 levy with a new County library tax levy.
- g. The new levy is for five fiscal years commencing July 1, 2002. It is anticipated to raise \$25.7 million in 2002-03, \$26.7 million in 2003-04, \$27.8 million in 2004-05, \$29 million in 2005-06, and \$30.3 million in 2006-07. These amounts are in addition to the tax revenues from the County's permanent property tax rate under Measure 50.
- h. On February 14, 2002 the Board approved a resolution calling for an election on May 21, 2002, and submitting a measure to Multnomah County electors to continue to fund library services. The Board now wishes to adopt an Explanatory Statement to accompany the Library Levy Ballot Title previously adopted.

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

1. The Explanatory Statement adopted as Exhibit "A" shall accompany the Ballot Title adopted on February 14, 2002 for the election called for May 21, 2002 to submit the library measure to the electors of Multnomah County for the purpose of funding library services.
2. The Explanatory Statement is certified, will be filed with the Multnomah County Director of Elections, and published in accordance with law.

ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2002.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney

**EXHIBIT A**  
**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**MEASURE 26-32**

**Continue Existing Multnomah County Library Services**

Measure 26-32, will replace the current library levy that will expire next year. Its cost will be 75.5 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 \$7.93 per month for this levy.

**RESULT OF A 'YES' VOTE**

Measure 26-32 will fund continued library services at Multnomah County libraries including:

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

## **Library Services Expected to be Renewed and Restored, include:**

- Multnomah County libraries open six days a week for an average of 53-58 hours each;
- Monday hours restored at Central Library and the four busiest branches;
- Central Library and neighborhood libraries open Sunday afternoons;
- Library services for young and school-age children - story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help, summer reading and services for children in child care;
- Library services for jobseekers, small business owners, those speaking English as a Second Language;
- Buying more new books, magazines, and other library materials.

## **How Are Libraries Used?**

- An average of 21 books are checked out every year, for every man, woman and child in the County;
- More than 34,000 children participate in the Library's Summer Reading Program;
- More than 52,000 people attend library events for children and teens each year;
- Special library programs with schools reach nearly 75,000 students and teachers each year;
- Librarians and other staff provide personal help an average of 93,000 times each week - answering questions, reading stories, checking out books, and more;
- People turn to the library in person, by phone or e-mail hundreds of times each day for help finding information they need;
- Each day more than 6,500 people visit Central and neighborhood libraries.

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

The library gets over 55% of its funding from the current voter -approved levy. If the library levy is not renewed, library services will be reduced. Libraries will be open fewer days, some neighborhood libraries may close, and fewer books will be purchased.