

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-109**

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

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

- a. On May 21, 2002, about 59% of those voting approved the renewal of the Multnomah County Library Levy for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2002. The measure could not take effect because less than 50% of those registered to vote cast ballots in that election.
- b. This levy replaces and renews a serial levy approved by voters in November 1997. It funded library services for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003.
- c. The Board considers funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- d. The Board finds that existing and anticipated County revenues are not sufficient for the library services expected by Multnomah County residents.
- e. 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.
- 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.
- 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 determines it is in the public interest to resubmit the levy to the voters at the November 5, 2002 general election.
- i. This levy is for five fiscal years commencing July 1, 2003. It is anticipated to raise \$26.7 million in 2003-04, \$27.8 million in 2004-05, \$29.0 million in 2005-06, \$30.3 million in 2006-07 and \$31.7 million in 2007-08.

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

1. An election is called for the November 5, 2002 general election to submit to the electors of Multnomah County a renewal of a five-year library levy for the purpose of funding library services. The Ballot Title measure is adopted as Exhibit A and the Explanatory Statement is adopted as Exhibit B.

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 1st day of August 2002.

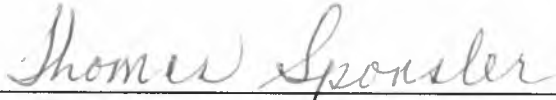


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSER, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **BALLOT TITLE**

#### **CAPTION:**

**MEASURE 26-36**

Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy for County Library Services

#### **QUESTION:**

Shall Multnomah County continue library services with levy of 75.5 cents per \$1000 assessed value for five years beginning 2003?

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

#### **SUMMARY:**

The library levy approved by voters in 1997 expires June 2003. It provides over half the library's funds. If not renewed, library service will be greatly reduced. Libraries will be open fewer hours and buy fewer books.

At the May 2002 election, 58.99% of voters approved renewal of the Library levy. It could not take effect because of inadequate turnout. That five-year levy would have begun July 2002. This levy begins July 2003.

The Library levy will:

- Keep Central and neighborhood libraries open;
- Restore Monday hours at Central and four busiest libraries;
- Continue services for young and school-age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help;
- Continue services for seniors, job seekers, small businesses, delivery to homebound;
- Buy library books, magazines and other materials.

The levy raises approximately \$26.7 million in 2003-04, \$27.8 million in 2004-05, \$29.0 million in 2005-2006, \$30.3 million in 2006-2007, and \$31.7 million in 2007-2008.

This new levy replaces the current Library levy. An average value single-family residence will pay \$7.93 monthly.

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 26-36**

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

On May 21, 2002, about 59% of those voting approved the renewal of the Multnomah County Library levy for five fiscal years commencing July 1, 2002. The measure could not take effect because less than 50% of those registered to vote cast ballots in that election.

Measure 26-36, will renew a Library levy for the current levy that will expire next year. Its cost will be 75.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed value per year. This replaces the charge for the current Library levy. According to the County Assessment and Taxation, the average single family home would pay about \$7.93 per month for this levy.

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

Measure 26-36 will fund continued library services at Multnomah County libraries including Central Library and:

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

##### **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 24 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 **48%** of its funding from the current voter-approved levy. If the library levy is not renewed, library services will be greatly reduced. Libraries will be open fewer days, some neighborhood libraries may close, and fewer books will be purchased.