

July 30, 2012

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I am unable to attend the meeting of July 31<sup>st</sup>. I am totally in favor of establishing a permanent Multnomah County Library district. The library is a valuable resource for our community and needs to have permanent, reliable funding.

Regards,

Alice Shapiro  
7426 SE 21<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97202  
971.279.5819

7/30/12

Multnomah County Mail - putting Library District on the ballot



Lynda <Lynda.Grow@multco.us>

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## putting Library District on the ballot

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**Barbara Backstrand** <barbarab@spiritone.com>

Wed, Jul 25, 2012 at 3:55 PM

To: lynda.grow@multco.us

Please note my strong advocacy of putting the Library District on the ballot. Having all the services the library provides for the community and future citizens is so important to ensure!

Barbara Backstrand  
1420 NW Lovejoy #205  
Portland 97209

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

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Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk  
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MEETING DATE: July 31, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

FOR:  AGAINST:

NAME: Cherry Britton

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 2005 SE Reedway st

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland OR 97202

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:**

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7. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
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**IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN INSTEAD OF ORAL COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:**

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: [lynda.grow@multco.us](mailto:lynda.grow@multco.us)
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

*see written testimony on reverse*

County Commissioners:

I feel strongly that Portland needs its own taxing district. This has been a long-standing problem and it's time to detach the library's funding from the county and the city. The last vote lost public support (after the vote) because many didn't realize library services were going to be cut back even tho the measure passed. Though the library is popular, it will not continue to be strongly supported if people feel betrayed ~ through passing measures then cutting funding. The library needs its own district. Now.

Thank you,

Cherry Britta

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**MEETING DATE: July 31, 2012**

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

FOR: X

AGAINST:

NAME: Erin E. Cooper

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 222 SW Harrison St Apt 5H

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97201

PHONE: (541) 992-1719 EMAIL: ecooper@fpc.org

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I attended the public meeting today (Tuesday, July 31) but on reflection decided that most of the testimony missed the point. Everybody loves the library, no doubt about it. I think most library users and Multnomah County Commissioners support the permanent library district. My understanding is that the question is whether or not it belongs on the November 2012 ballot, or if a wait until Spring 2013 will give us a better shot at passing it.

I worked hard on the levy campaign in May, and I think that vote generated a lot of residual momentum we could use in November 2012. If we wait until May, people will be used to the fact that the libraries have reduced hours and are only open 6 days/week. Currently, many people consider it to be a hardship, but that feeling will not last

forever. If the library district campaign really drives it home as a way to restore full services, I think it's got a much better chance on the November ballot before the current, reduced services become standard.

Although there are other local taxes to come up on the November ballot, I believe that will be true every May and November from now until Kingdom come. The library will always be competing with schools/roads/roads etc, so I think the time is now to use the pro-library feelings generated by the May levy.

Thank you,

Erin Cooper

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

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MEETING DATE: July 31, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

FOR: X AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: F.I. Goldhaber

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: fi@goldhaber.net

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## F.I. GOLDHABER

P.O. Box 80766 • Portland OR 97280 • (503) 933-8456 • fi@goldhaber.net

July 30, 2012

Dear Multnomah Board of Commissioners:

My name is F.I. Goldhaber, a resident of the City of Portland in Multnomah County. I am a homeowner, taxpayer, voter, SMART volunteer, and a published novelist, short story writer, and poet.

I'm guessing you aren't aware just how many authors make Portland their home because many of us keep a low profile. Some, like myself, use pseudonyms. But, this coming weekend, (Aug. 3-5) many of us will emerge into the blinding sunlight to attend one of the largest writing conferences in the country -- attracting more than eight hundred writers, editors, agents, film producers, and publishers from coast to coast and overseas -- here in Portland.

Portland was named by "National Geographic" one of the top ten literary cities in the *world*, the highest ranked U.S. city at number seven. The only other U.S. city that made the list was "Washington D.C.," at number eight.

I don't expect the Multnomah County Library to compete with the Library of Congress, I'm disappointed by apparent reluctance on the part of elected officials to provide the library the support it needs to deliver the services local residents have come to expect and cherish.

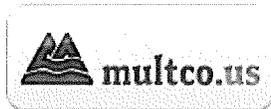
Although the "National Geographic" article doesn't mention the Multnomah County library, in truth the library is the bedrock of Portland's literary community. The library supports the culture that spawned the Portland Arts and Lectures series, Wordstock, and that produces enough readers to attract independent bookstores of every size and classification. I challenge you to find a night in Portland where some literary event isn't luring people out to spend money.

The library is often the first glimpse children have of the worlds, stories, and information available to them in books. I hate to see Multnomah County children deprived of the library's many activities and marvelous collections for any day of the week.

I urge you to refer the library district to voters in the November election.

Sincerely,

F.I. Goldhaber



Lynda GROW <lynda.grow@multco.us>

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## Library Funding

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Hyung W. Pak <hwpak1@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 30, 2012 at 5:26 PM

To: lynda.grow@multco.us

Dear Commissioners,

As a regular library user, I wholeheartedly support the operation of Multnomah County Library.

It goes beyond library hours, the Library's endeavor to acquire additional books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials is most commendable. Furthermore, the Library makes it possible for users like me to reserve library collection on-line.

Before my wife and I moved to Portland, we lived in New York City and Philadelphia. I am an admirer of the Multnomah County Library. You have one of the finest libraries in the United States.

Residents, both young and old, depend on our Library.

Please fund the Library adequately!!

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Hyung Woong Pak  
1200 NW Marshall Street  
Ste. 1412  
Portland, OR 97209

Kris Hudson  
5038 SW Idaho St.  
Portland, OR 97221  
503-246-7566  
krishud@comcast.net

Testimony for the July 31, 2012 Meeting

Subject: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

Agenda Topic: PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT PUBLIC HEARING

FOR

I believe that the Board should submit the proposed Multnomah County Library District along with a tax rate that allows the library to provide the services all Multnomah County residents expect. We have one of the best library systems in the country and we should continue to be recognized for our excellent library system.

I am aware of the arguments opposing the district made by Portland's mayor and others. However, the City has hurt every taxing district with its Urban Renewal program so I don't really feel sorry for it.

I urge all Commissioners to support the district and submit it for the November ballot.

[lynda.grow@multco.us](mailto:lynda.grow@multco.us)

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## Testimony in Support for Proposed Multnomah County Library District

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ingrahamlg@aol.com <ingrahamlg@aol.com>

Sat, Jul 28, 2012 at 1:01 PM

To: lynda.grow@multco.us

Meeting Date: July 31, 2012

Agenda Item: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

For: x

Name: Leonoor Ingraham-Swets, Ph.D.

Address: 2676 SW Talbot Road

City/State/Zip: Portland, OR 97201-1669

Phone: 503- 222-2608

Email: ingrahamlg@aol.com

Dear Honorable Chair Cogen & Commissioners Kafoury, Smith, Shiprack, McKeel,

As a tax paying resident of Portland for over 38 years, I strongly support the proposed Multnomah County Library District.

Consistent stable funding makes the operations far more efficient for maintaining services to the public as well as planning and implementation of short-and long-range projects necessitated by rapid changes in information technology and increased need for information literacy.

I can confidently speak to this issue because of my extensive experience with libraries. As the Library Director of Clark College (1990-2005), Vancouver, I witnessed how effectively the Fort Vancouver Regional Library System functioned as a library district.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library and the Clark College Library cooperated closely to ensure that the information needs of the residents of Clark County were successfully met. Fort Vancouver Regional Library's funding mechanism was and still is essential to its outstanding achievements.

I fervently believe in Thomas Jefferson's "educated citizenry". Libraries play a critical role in this process. As such, the residents of Multnomah County deserve to be adequately supported by the creation of Multnomah County Library District to ensure long term reliable funding for library services.

Sincerely yours,  
Leonoor Ingraham-Swets, Ph.D.

*Marian Creamer  
11657 SW Breyman Avenue  
Portland, OR 97219*

31 July 2012

Chair Jeff Cogen  
Commissioner Deborah Kafoury  
Commissioner Loretta Smith  
Commissioner Judy Shiprack  
Comissioner Diane McKeel

Dear Chair Cogen and Commissioners:

I urge you to vote to place on the November ballot, the measure pertaining to the establishment and funding of library district for our vital and valued Multnomah County Library.

Sparing you my oral testimony once again and providing an opportunity for other concerned citizens to speak up this morning, I am briefly, yet no less passionately expressing my support for a library district funding at a rate that supports the operation and services voters of Multnomah County has grown to expect and appreciate. At a time when support of proactive programs is critical, our elected and respected leaders need to play an active role in creating the future rather than letting forces such as flawed funding Measures 5 and 50 negatively impact our nationally as well as locally respected Multnomah County Library.

Literacy is crucial in the development of citizens who contribute positively to the economic and social fabric of our society. At a time when school libraries have been dismantled, our county library provides the trained services, materials and support where it is tragically absent.

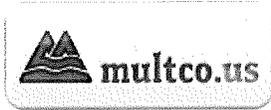
Furthermore, Multnomah County Library has proven itself as a reliable and trusted source of contact and credibility with all segments of our society, those in need of services, regardless of economic, educational, or professional status.

I praise you for cautiously and competently approaching this difficult issue, and for taking the high road when dealing with competing groups and governments.

Please know too, that if you do vote in favor of giving voters an opportunity to vote for a well-funded library district measure in November, I will do all that I can to insure a positive outcome.

Yours truly,

  
Marian Creamer



Lynda GROW <lynda.grow@multco.us>

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## Support the library district

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Mary Hirsch <hirschpi@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jul 30, 2012 at 9:54 PM

To: lynda.grow@multco.us, mayorsam@portlandoregon.gov, nick@portlandoregon.gov, amanda@portlandoregon.gov, dan@portlandoregon.gov, randy@portlandoregon.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

With all due respect I urge you to strongly support a library district on the ballot this November.

Regardless of income level access to information, virtual or on the printed page, is available to all in the public library. When the library doors are shut, everyone in this increasingly diverse community loses.

Citizens and public officials of Multnomah County and the City of Portland are proud of what they have achieved by creating a great library system. Do not let the situation devolve into anything resembling the mess of the 1970s when the county libraries were hardly open.

The idea of a funding district is not new, but now is the time to let it happen. Vote for it.

Sincerely,  
Mary E. Hirsch

Daughter of a Friends Founder  
Sister of Two former employees of the MCL  
Reader and Voting Citizen

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**  
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**MEETING DATE:** July 31, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM:** Proposed Multnomah County Library District

**FOR:**  **AGAINST:**

**NAME:** Mary McWilliams, League of Women Voters of Portland

**CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):**

**ADDRESS:** 310 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., room 520

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Portland, OR

**PHONE:** 503-228-1675 **EMAIL:** info@lwvpdx.org

**ATTENDING TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012**

\*\*\*\* LETTER ATTACHED \*\*\*\*



## The League of Women Voters of Portland

310 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 520, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 228-1675 • info@lwvpdx.org • www.lwvpdx.org

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Budget

## **Proposed Library District Public Hearing Multnomah County Commission July 31, 2012**

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and of East Multnomah County support a public library system that upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know. We support the library as a basic community service with an assured, stable and adequate source of funding.

The Leagues urge you to refer creation of the library district to the November ballot. Voters should be given the opportunity to approve a district with a permanent rate that will provide funding sufficient to support all library needs. The current practice of relying on temporary local option property tax levies for a major portion of the system's budget is unacceptable, especially in light of the overwhelming support voters demonstrated for their libraries during the May election.

We acknowledge the impact a new library district will have on local taxing jurisdictions and understand their concern. Rather than objecting to creating a stable source of funding for our libraries, however, the League encourages elected officials to consider calling for a statewide conversation about the property tax system. The current debate about how to fund our libraries is only one indication that there is room for improvement.

Again, we fully support referring the library district to the November ballot. Thank you for considering our comments.

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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MEETING DATE: July 31, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

FOR: YES AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: SCOTT W. NELSON *Scott W. Nelson*

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: 1020 NW 9TH AVE #305

CITY/STATE/ZIP: PORTLAND, OR 97209

PHONE: NA

EMAIL: swn@hotmail.com

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Scott's comment: Every great city has a great library system. Keep our library going strong!

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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MEETING DATE: July 31,  
2012

AGENDA ITEM: Library District

FOR:  AGAINST:

NAME: Tom Mattox

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please add my voice to the many others in favor of the Library District.  
I would like to remind Commissioner Cogen that he led the entire Commission in January in a compromise which promised that the Library District would be put on the ballot in November.

I sincerely hope that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will keep their promise to all of us.

A vote to put this matter on the ballot is not just a vote for libraries; it's a vote that we have confidence in our future.

Please vote YES on Thursday, so we can vote YES in November.

Thank You

Tom Mattox  
Portland