

Multnomah County Library Levy/Bond History 1976-2006

- 1976** First 3-year serial levy to maintain library service is passed.
- 1980** 3-year serial levy to maintain library service. There were two library measures, the “A” and “B” ballots. The “A” ballot passed, but “B” failed, resulting in the loss of 30 full time employees and the closure of two branch libraries (Lombard and Montavilla). Central Library went from six to five days of service, and one bookmobile was taken off the road.
- 1983** 3-year serial levy to maintain library service passes.
- 1986** 3-year serial levy to maintain and improve library service passes.
- May 1990** 3-year serial levy is passed. Hours of service are increased.
- July 1990** Governance of the library system transfers from the Library Association of Portland to Multnomah County, ending 126 years of private control.
- May 1993**
- Levy Measure 26-1: 3-year serial levy to continue library operations.
YES 78% NO 22%
Operating and staffing the downtown Central library, Gresham Regional Library and 13 branches; providing library services to children, adults and senior citizens with special needs.
 - Bond Measure 26-3: General Obligation bonds for Central and Midland library.
YES 70% NO 30%
- November 1994**
- Measure 5 – Amends constitution: bars new or increased taxes without voter approval.
- May 1996**
- Measure 26-41: Renew 3-year serial levy to keep public libraries open.
YES 69.73% NO 26.61%
- Levy renewal keeps the Central Library and all branch libraries open, and provides these expanded services: More books and other library materials; Replacement of outdated and damaged library materials; Youth programs, including story hours for toddlers, homework help for students, and special reading programs with attention to kids in day care; Special library

programs for adults, senior citizens and technology and other subjects. Greatly expanded hours at Central and branches, opened busiest branches on Mondays for the first time in 20 years.

- Measure 26-44: General Obligation bonds to repair library branches, improve access to computers, technology.
YES 59.47% NO 36.08%

Improve county library branches; repair deteriorated branches including roofs, electrical and heating systems in libraries throughout the county. Renovate busiest branch libraries – Hillsdale, St. Johns, Belmont, Hollywood. Upgrade library computer systems, provide public internet access, improve student access to library resources during school hours.

May 1997

- Measure 50: Amends constitution: limits assessed value of property for tax purposes; limits property tax rates.
YES 54.27% NO 44.49%

November 1997

- Measure 26-58: Five-year serial levy for public libraries (59.5 cents/\$1000)
YES 51.24% NO 45.94%

This is the first time a 5-year rate based levy was allowed. Also, this was the first library election under the new requirement that 50% of all registered voters must vote in order for the measure to pass.

This measure meant big increases in library funding and services. The measure renewed library operations, allowed libraries to provide services planned prior to passage of Measure 47. Helped to operate the downtown Central Library and all library branches, increased money for books and other library materials. Opened all libraries more hours, with all library branches now open on Sundays.

May 2002

- Measure 26-32: Five year local option levy to continue library services (75.5 cents/\$1,000).
YES 59% NO 41%
47% voter turnout – LEVY DOES NOT PASS.

Due to the 50% voter turnout now required, the library levy is not approved.

Services funded include: Central Library and neighborhood libraries maintain current hours; Monday hours restored at Central Library and four other branch libraries; Continued 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; Continued special services for adults and seniors such as help for job seekers and small business owners and home book delivery; Libraries buy additional books, magazines and other materials.

November 2002

- Measure 26-36: Five year local option levy to continue library services (75.5 cents/\$1,000).

YES 58% NO 42%

Identical levy to that voted on in May. This levy is passed by voters as it receives more than 50% voter turnout and a majority of yes votes.

November 2006

- Measure 26-81: Renew five-year local option levy to continue library services (89 cents/\$1,000).

YES: 61.85% NO 38.15%

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