

# **ANNOTATED MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - 9:30 AM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Auditorium  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

*Chair Beverly Stein convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m., with Commissioners Sharron Kelley, Tanya Collier and Dan Saltzman present.*

## **LAND USE PLANNING HEARING - RESCHEDULE**

- P-1      SEC 13-97 DE NOVO HEARING, TESTIMONY LIMITED TO 20 MINUTES PER SIDE Regarding Appeal of the Hearings Officer Decision Approving a Significant Environmental Concern Permit for Development of a Single Family Dwelling on Lands Designated Rural Residential, for Property Located at 18988 NW KING ROAD, PORTLAND
- P-2      CS 3-97/PLA 5-97 DE NOVO HEARING, TESTIMONY LIMITED TO 20 MINUTES PER SIDE Regarding Appeal of the Hearings Officer Decision Approving a Community Service Use and Property Line Adjustment, Subject to Conditions and Approval, for Property Located at 4280 NW NORTH ROAD, PORTLAND

***AT THE REQUEST OF CHAIR STEIN AND UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER KELLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SALTZMAN, DE NOVO LAND USE HEARINGS FOR CASES SEC 13-97 AND CS 3-97/PLA 5-97 WERE UNANIMOUSLY RESCHEDULED TO 10:00 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1997.***

*The planning meeting was adjourned and the briefing convened at 9:31a.m.*

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Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - 9:30 AM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Auditorium  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

## **BOARD BRIEFINGS**

- B-1 Progress Report on the Work of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC). Presented by Peter Ozanne and Suzanne Riles.

*Vice-Chair Gary Hansen arrived at 9:32 a.m.*

***PETER OZANNE AND SUZANNE RILES  
PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE TO BOARD  
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION.***

- B-2 Discussion Concerning the Proposed Sale of Approximately 64 Acres at Edgefield to the City of Troutdale. Presented by Wayne George and John Thomas.

*Vice-Chair Gary Hansen excused himself at 10:12 a.m.*

***COMMISSIONER SHARRON KELLEY, WAYNE  
GEORGE AND BOB OBERST PRESENTATION AND  
RESPONSE TO BOARD QUESTIONS, COMMENTS  
AND DISCUSSION.***

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54  
a.m.*

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Wednesday, October 1, 1997 - 3:00 PM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Conference Room C  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

**TSCC PUBLIC HEARING**

*Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission Chair Charles Rosenthal convened the meeting at 3:05 p.m., with TSCC Commissioners Anthony Jankans and Roger McDowell, TSCC staff Courtney Wilton and Tony Barnes, County Commission Chair Beverly Stein and Commissioner Sharron Kelley present; and TSCC Commissioners Richard Anderson and Ann Sherman, County Commissioners Gary Hansen, Tanya Collier and Dan Saltzman excused.*

- PH-1 The Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission Will Meet with a Quorum of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed **1998-2003 Library**

**Local Option Levy Measure.** Presentations by Dave Warren and Jeanne Goodrich. Public Testimony Invited.

**DAVE WARREN, SHARRON KELLEY, BECKY COBB AND BEVERLY STEIN PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION. COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION WITH GUESTS FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBER CATHY VANZYL; LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS PAUL MILIUS AND EVIE CROWELL; AND LEVY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEMBER AISLING COGHLAN.**

*Chair Rosenthal excused himself at 3:40 p.m.*

**MR. MILIUS, MR. WARREN AND CHAIR STEIN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS OF MR. WILTON AND COMMISSIONERS MCDOWELL AND JANKANS. MR. WARREN RESPONDED TO A QUESTION FROM GUEST ROBERT HOLMES ABOUT THE AMOUNT AND DATE OF A GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO THE LIBRARY BUDGET.**

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.*

OFFICE OF THE BOARD CLERK  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**Deborah L. Bogstad**

Deborah L. Bogstad



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

**BOARD CLERK**

OFFICE OF BEVERLY STEIN, COUNTY CHAIR  
1120 SW FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 1515  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1914  
TELEPHONE • (503) 248-3277  
FAX • (503) 248-3013

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

BEVERLY STEIN •	CHAIR	•248-3308
DAN SALTZMAN •	DISTRICT 1	• 248-5220
GARY HANSEN •	DISTRICT 2	•248-5219
TANYA COLLIER •	DISTRICT 3	•248-5217
SHARRON KELLEY •	DISTRICT 4	•248-5213

# MEETINGS OF THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA

FOR THE WEEK OF  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 1997 - OCTOBER 3, 1997**

Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - Land Use Planning CANCELLED .....

Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - 9:30 AM - Board Briefings..... Page 2

Wednesday, October 1, 1997 - 3:00 PM - TSCC Public Hearing ..... Page 3

Thursday, October 2, 1997 - Regular Meeting CANCELLED .....

Thursday Meetings of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners are \*cable-cast\* live and taped and can be seen by Cable subscribers in Multnomah County at the following times:

Thursday, 9:30 AM, (LIVE) Channel 30

Friday, 10:00 PM, Channel 30

Sunday, 1:00 PM, Channel 30

\*Produced through Multnomah Community Television\*

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - 9:30 AM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Auditorium  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

## **LAND USE PLANNING HEARING - RESCHEDULE**

**PLEASE NOTE THE BOARD HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO  
RESCHEDULE THE FOLLOWING LAND USE HEARINGS TO  
10:00 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1997:**

- P-1      SEC 13-97 DE NOVO HEARING, TESTIMONY LIMITED TO 20 MINUTES PER SIDE Regarding Appeal of the Hearings Officer Decision Approving a Significant Environmental Concern Permit for Development of a Single Family Dwelling on Lands Designated Rural Residential, for Property Located at 18988 NW KING ROAD, PORTLAND
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- 

Tuesday, September 30, 1997 - 9:30 AM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Auditorium  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

## **BOARD BRIEFINGS**

- B-1      Progress Report on the Work of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC). Presented by Peter Ozanne and Suzanne Riles. 30 MINUTES REQUESTED.
- B-2      Discussion Concerning the Proposed Sale of Approximately 64 Acres at Edgefield to the City of Troutdale. Presented by Wayne George and John Thomas. 45 MINUTES REQUESTED.

Wednesday, October 1, 1997 - 3:00 PM  
Portland Building, Second Floor Conference Room C  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland

## **TSCC PUBLIC HEARING**

PH-1      The Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission Will Meet with a Quorum of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed **1998-2003 Library Local Option Levy Measure**. Presentations by Dave Warren and Jeanne Goodrich. Public Testimony Invited. 1 HOUR REQUESTED.

TANYA COLLIER  
Multnomah County Commissioner  
District 3



1120 SW Fifth St., Suite 1500  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 248-5217

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Office of the Board Clerk  
Chair Beverly Stein  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner Sharron Kelley  
Commissioner Gary Hansen

**FROM:** Michele Fuchs, Staff Assistant 

**DATE:** October 1, 1997

**SUBJECT:** Absence from Board Meeting

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Please excuse Commissioner Collier from today's TSCC public hearing due to County business outside the office.

MEETING DATE: OCT 01 1997

AGENDA #: PH-1

ESTIMATED START TIME: 3:00pm

(Above Space for Board Clerk's Use ONLY)

**AGENDA PLACEMENT FORM**

SUBJECT: TSCC Hearing on Library Levy

BOARD BRIEFING: DATE REQUESTED: October 1, 1997

REQUESTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED: 1 hour

REGULAR MEETING: DATE REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: Nondepartmental DIVISION: TSCC

CONTACT: Dave Warren, Courtney Wilton TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG/ROOM #: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON(S) MAKING PRESENTATION: Dave Warren, Jeanne Goodrich

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ INFORMATIONAL ONLY ☐ POLICY DIRECTION ☐ APPROVAL ☒ OTHER

SUGGESTED AGENDA TITLE:

Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission Hearing on the Proposed 1998-2003 Library Local Option Levy Measure

SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

ELECTED  
OFFICIAL: Beverly Stein  
(OR)  
DEPARTMENT  
MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

97 SEP 25 AM 11:46  
CLERK OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
OREGON

ALL ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS MUST HAVE REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Any Questions: Call the Board Clerk @ 248-3277





# MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BEVERLY STEIN  
DAN SALTZMAN  
GARY HANSEN  
TANYA COLLIER  
SHARRON KELLEY

BUDGET AND QUALITY  
PORTLAND BUILDING  
1120 S.W. FIFTH - ROOM 1400  
P. O. BOX 14700  
PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE (503)248-3883

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Warren

TODAY'S DATE: September 24, 1997

REQUESTED PLACEMENT DATE: October 1, 1997

SUBJECT: Tax Supervising Hearing on the Library Levy

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## I. Recommendation / Action Requested:

A quorum of the Board should attend

## II. Background / Analysis:

Tax Supervising is required to hold hearings on all levies. Tax Supervising will conduct the hearing. TSCC members will have questions about the levy. Courtney Wilton has provided the attached files of documents that he has forwarded to the Commission members. Included in the documents is a list of questions he has asked me. My answers are also attached.

I believe Jeanne Goodrich, Becky Cobb, and I can answer budget questions comfortably. I expect TSCC to follow past form and ask policy questions as well. I hope those of you who attend will feel comfortable addressing those issues as well as weighing in on anything that you want to discuss..

## III. Financial Impact:

None

## IV. Legal Issues:

TSCC does not have a legal approval to perform with proposed levies the way it does with budgets. TSCC does not certify the levy or perform any oversight function other than to hold the hearing

## V. Controversial Issues:

You are all aware that Courtney Wilton filed suit to include reference in the ballot title to the proposed replacement of General Fund support for the Library. It may be that TSCC will want to discuss this. However, their discussion will not require us to take any further action with the levy measure. The only fallout from the discussion might be that something might show up in a newspaper article.

VI. Link to Current County Policies:

N/A

VII. Citizen Participation:

TSCC is intended to guarantee citizen participation by requiring all jurisdictions to appear before them as citizens. In addition, a couple of citizens have been very interested in the contents of the levy, and they may either or both come to the hearing and ask questions or make a statement.

VIII. Other Government Participation:

N/A



**Commissioners**

Richard Anderson  
Anthony Jankans  
Roger McDowell  
Charles Rosenthal  
Ann Sherman

**TAX SUPERVISING & CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

421 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 724  
Portland, Oregon 97204-2189

Telephone: (503) 248-3054 Facsimile: (503) 248-3053  
E Mail: TSCC@aol.com Web Site: [www.multnomah.lib.or.us/tscc/](http://www.multnomah.lib.or.us/tscc/)

September 22, 1997

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** TSCC Commissioners

**FROM:** Courtney Wilton

**SUBJECT:** Multnomah County Library Local Option Levy  
-Property Tax Proposals - 11/4/97 Ballot)  
-Five years 59.47 cents per \$1,000 AV

**HEARING DATE:** Wednesday, October 1, 1997  
Pre Meeting - 2:30 p.m.  
Hearing - 3:00 p.m.  
Portland Building -Room C (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Portland, Oregon

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
Multnomah County Information Packet  
Ballot Title / Misc. other information.  
News Clippings

**Overview:**

Multnomah County is seeking voter approval of a five year rate based supplemental library property tax levy this November. The levy is expected to increase property taxes by approximately \$113m over the five year period-starting next fiscal year (98/99). In the first year, the increase is expected to be \$20.9m. This generates an additional \$19.7m in library revenue after factoring in property tax discounts and delinquencies. Per the attached forecast, the library budget is expected to increase by \$11.2m next year. The difference between the new revenue realized and the additional costs to be incurred allows (but does not require) the county to discontinue a current year \$7.5m subsidy from the general fund. \$2m of the \$7.5m transfer was "one-time" support, so the ongoing benefit to general fund is expected to be roughly \$5.5m. Per Measure 50, the request may be passed only at an election with at least a 50% voter turnout.

An estimated break out of the intended 98/99 levy use is as follows:

1. General fund subsidy replacement	\$5.5m	28%
2. Service additions:		
A. To get to plan in place before M-47 / 50 cuts	4.7m	24%
B. Over and above expansions planned before M-47 /50	<u>9.5m</u>	<u>48%</u>
Total	\$19.7m	100%

The allocation is slightly different than the county's due to differing treatment of approximately \$1m in unexpected Central Library costs.

## Multnomah County Library Levy - TSCC Hearing

A recap of the services to be provided according to provided information:

1. Replace General fund "one-time" funding  
*-used to extend staff at Central and branch libraries (32 fte)* \$2,147,000
2. Restore hours at all libraries to pre M-47 / M-50 plan 3,900,000  
*-per attached, weekly hours increase from 526.5 to 720.5 (72 fte -#2&#3)*
3. Increase hours over and above pre M-47 / M-50 plan (Sunday opening) 757,000  
*-all libraries will open at least 4 hours on Sunday afternoons*
4. Open new branches in NW Portland and Parkrose 1,642,000  
*-NW site will be leased / Parkrose is currently operating school library (14.5 fte)*
5. Additional books and materials 2,199,000  
*-to reach 15% of operating budget benchmark (3 fte)*
6. Technology upgrades / Ongoing maintenance 3,010,000  
*-Computer system upgrade / Accumulation of capital reserve (8.5 fte)*
7. New branch in East County 310,000  
*-Site hasn't officially been selected though Fairview seems most likely (4 fte)*
8. Regional Arts Commission / Oregon Historical Society programs 512,000  
*-Arts focused programs at libraries / HS programs that parallel library activities (0 fte)*
9. Replace on-going general fund subsidy 5,574,000

Overall, the budget is expected to increase 47% next year (from \$24m to \$35.2m). This includes a 31% jump in the number of employees (from 323 to 424), and a 20% rise in the number of branches (from 15 to 18). Weekly hours (ignoring the new branches) will rise about 37% (526 to 720) to get to service level planned for when the last library levy was passed (pre M-47 /50). Sunday hours will boost the base total roughly another 10%. So, essentially the plan calls for an almost 50% increase in existing branch operating hours. New branch hours are on top of this.

Attached for your review are the following:

1. Suggested questions
2. Information packet provided by Dave Warren
3. Ballot title / Explanatory Statement
4. Recap of county elections
5. News clippings

Thanks to staff. As usual, Dave and co. have been very helpful and cooperative. Thank you!

## **WILTON Courtney G**

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**From:** WILTON Courtney G  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 1997 5:15 PM  
**To:** WARREN Dave C  
**Subject:** TSCC Library Hearing Questions

Dave - here's some rambling questions I have. This is preliminary. Give me a call and we can go through. As always, I'll give you a copy of the report when it goes out to my bosses.

1. Have you attempted to update the various performance indicators based upon the new levy's service level? I'm curious how the enhancements especially the expanded hours - are expected to affect circulation / # visits / info. requests etc..
2. Is the historical society contribution funding a new or existing service? Do you have any control over how the \$ will ultimately be spent?
3. If levy doesn't pass will any branches close? I'm still confused about this. I thought the current year one time funding was not used to keep branches from closing. Also, ballot language refers to current, reduced service levels and not closure.
4. Is maintenance component of levy for future or prior wear and tear? Were the \$ (\$3m) in the '96 g/o bond sufficient to completely cover deferred maintenance backlog -or will some of the levy dollars be used for deferred maintenance?
5. Are you assuming that the fossil levy is unrestricted next year, before expiration of the original levy period?
6. Are there any plans to reduce the estimated permanent rate allocation (i.e. the \$13.5m) next year if certain new levy costs are less than anticipated? Is the long term plan to reduce the general fund subsidy and increase reliance on the new levy?
7. Combined Parkrose and NW library full year 98/99 operating costs were previously estimated at 936k. The new levy combined cost is approximately 75% higher than this at \$1,642,002. I'm sure the expanded hours are part of the reason for the difference. What other factors are driving up the costs?

8. When will the new NW branch open? Levy cost estimates assume a full year of operations in 98/99. Won't costs be less if the branch opens mid year?

9. '96 g/o bond cost estimate detail included 550k for NW branch opening day materials collections. Yet the proposed levy also includes \$500k earmarked for this branch's library books and materials. Are costs being shifted from the bond to the levy?

10. Why aren't any grants or OCF gifts budgeted in 98/99? Won't staff addbacks allow more active solicitation role?

11. I noticed that while the # of staff is scheduled to increase approximately 31% (from 323 to 424), the number of librarians increased about 86% (from 42 to 78). Is there some type of ratio you try to maintain between librarians and line staff? And, if so, is the ratio changing as a result of this levy?

12. Are the 37 positions added back this July in addition to the CSL and budget level of 323?

13. Are the '96 g/o bond renovations scheduled for the Hillsdale, St. Johns, Hollywood and Belmont branches still planned? How will these impact operating costs? Is impact factored into levy?

14. Was there any commitment made to the old library association regarding General fund support as part of the transition agreement?

15. Are all branches scheduled to be open on Sunday?

16. Will all the budget cuts you made this year (i.e. bookmobile, Old Town Reading Room, Correction facility services) be added back if levy passes?

17. Are Clackamas and Washington County's still paying Mult Co. \$60k each per year for out of resident use - or was this a M-47 / 50 casualty? Any idea if the amount received covers the related cost to serve?

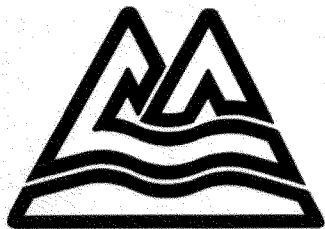
18. I originally thought use of funds was as follows:

M-47 / M-50 Replacement	2.7
Enhancements (above prior levy level)	9.5 (35.2 vs. 25.7)
Subsidy replacement	7.5

If we reclassify the one time subsidy of \$2m to the first category-since it's a M-47 casualty we end up with a split of 4.7 / 9.5 / 5.5. I think the only difference between my and your breakout gets to the treatment of the approximately \$1m in unexpected Central library costs. Is this accurate?

19. Total Mult Co. property taxes (for all jurisdictions) totaled to approximately \$650m last year. My guess is the M-50 will reduce this about 5% to approx. \$617m. If taxes grow 4% next year (3% plus growth) plus this local option levy of \$20.9m - I'm estimating we'll be back above the pre M-47 / M-50 level of property taxes. Do your commissioners have any inkling how this will impact other possible future local option requests, say for example, jails or education?

20. Forecasted budget of \$35.2m includes \$2.2m in "indirect costs." This is essentially a transfer from the Library fund to the general fund for overhead reimbursement. In the past, these costs have been offset with the general fund transfer to the Library fund. As discussed, the county intends to discontinue the \$5.5m transfer from the general fund if the levy passes. I think what this means is that the benefit to the general fund if the levy passes is really (\$6.2m), not \$5.5m. In other words, it's the discontinuation of the \$5.5m transfer plus the additional overhead reimbursements to be received (approximately \$700k). This assumes that general fund overhead costs will not increase significantly as a result of the new library services.



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

BEVERLY STEIN  
DAN SALTZMAN  
GARY HANSEN  
TANYA COLLIER  
SHARRON KELLEY

**BUDGET & QUALITY**

PORTLAND BUILDING  
1120 S.W. FIFTH - ROOM 1400  
P. O. BOX 14700  
PORTLAND, OR 97293  
PHONE (503)248-3883

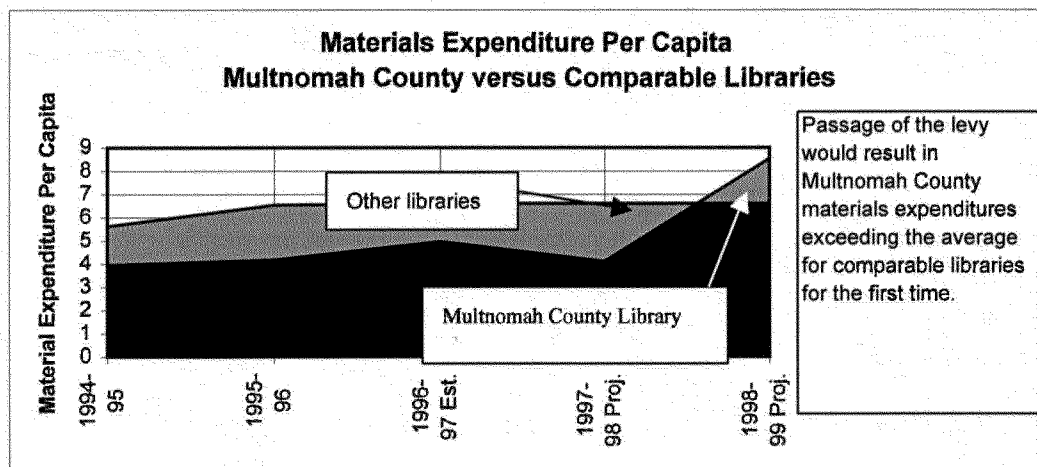
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TO: Courtney Wilton  
FROM: Dave Warren **DCW**  
DATE: September 25, 1997  
SUBJECT: Response to Library Levy Questions

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1. **Have you attempted to update the various performance indicators based upon the new levy's service level? I'm curious how the enhancements especially the expanded hours - are expected to affect circulation / # visits / info. requests etc..**

Not yet. The change in the materials expenditure will bring the level of spending above comparable libraries. The other indicators are more difficult to project. Access hours will affect both of them, but



the size of the changes proposed in the levy is big enough that Library staff are uncomfortable trying to estimate the impact without significantly more analysis than they have done now. They believe that the impact of reducing hours this year may give them more information about how the use of the library system varies with accessibility.

2. **Is the historical society contribution funding a new or existing service? Do you have any control over how the \$ will ultimately be spent?**



September 25, 1997

New. Our understanding is that these funds will allow OHS to provide free access to their library for all Multnomah County residents instead of charging \$6 per visit.

- 3. If levy doesn't pass will any branches close? I'm still confused about this. I thought the current year one time funding was not used to keep branches from closing. Also, ballot language refers to current, reduced service levels and not closure.**

If \$2.1 million dollars of 1997-98 one-time-only support is withdrawn, we will have to review the entire library service plan, including operational costs at each location.

Ginnie Cooper has recommended in the past, and says she would recommend again, closing some of the least cost-effective small branches once funding falls below a minimum, but not clearly defined, level.

A lot will depend on the level of activity at Central. If Central continues to be awash in visitors, the staffing there will have to be kept at the current level, even though the one-time-only money was added in the hope that we could reduce staffing once the newness wears off. If we have to keep the staffing at current levels at Central Library, then losing the one-time-only revenue might very well result in branch hour reductions or closures. But it is a very murky picture right now. By January, we may be more confident about estimating what resources Central will require at the current, reduced service level and we can make more informed decisions about how to handle the rest of the system as well.

- 4. Is maintenance component of levy for future or prior wear and tear? Were the \$ (\$3m) in the '96 g/o bond sufficient to completely cover deferred maintenance backlog -or will some of the levy dollars be used for deferred maintenance?**

The 96 bond was intended to deal with identified deferred maintenance throughout the system and major renovation at four branches. It may be sufficient to do that but the question of how much can be done before we address seismic issues is a very live one at this time.

The levy includes an estimate for systemwide deferred maintenance not anticipated to be covered by the bond and for future work, what the Facilities staff are calling "asset preservation". The initial allocation (1998-99 level) falls about \$500,000 short of what Facilities staff recommended as the ongoing annual level. Later years' allocations close the gap and the final year estimates are that we will be able to afford the level of maintenance that Facilities staff believes is appropriate.

The levy money is also for technology replacements. Both the maintenance and the technology upgrades are items that we will no longer be able to pay for with future bonds, so we're trying to plan for those needs with the levy.

- 5. Are you assuming that the fossil levy is unrestricted next year, before expiration of the original levy period?**

I believe it is unrestricted, but the County plan is to contribute the equivalent amount to the Library Fund for the life of the levy.

- 6. Are there any plans to reduce the estimated permanent rate allocation (i.e. the \$13.5m) next year if certain new levy costs are less than anticipated? Is the long term plan to reduce the general fund subsidy and increase reliance on the new levy?**

My preference would be to reduce the levy amount if levy costs are lower. The rate is permanent; reducing tax collection in one year will not affect collections in future years as was the case with the tax base under the prior tax system. I prefer to adjust the dedicated levy as the leverage point rather than the undedicated property taxes in the General Fund.

September 25, 1997

- 7. Combined Parkrose and NW library full year 98/99 operating costs were previously estimated at 936k. The new levy combined cost is approximately 75% higher than this at \$1,642,002. I'm sure the expanded hours are part of the reason for the difference. What other factors are driving up the costs?**

We did not know, when we proposed the prior levy, how much staff these branches would require. We now believe the Northwest branch would be the same as a mid-sized branch elsewhere and the Parkrose staffing will be at the same level as one of the small branches.

Note also that this estimate includes both \$500,000 for opening day collections (see question 9 below) and \$210,000 for furniture and equipment at the Northwest branch. It is the inclusion of these costs that pushes the total up.

- 8. When will the new NW branch open? Levy cost estimates assume a full year of operations in 98/99. Won't costs be less if the branch opens mid year?**

We continue to believe that a July 1998 opening date is possible. If it is not, see question 6 above.

- 9. '96 g/o bond cost estimate detail included 550k for NW branch opening day materials collections. Yet the proposed levy also includes \$500k earmarked for this branch's library books and materials. Are costs being shifted from the bond to the levy?**

Unfortunately, Ginnie Cooper is not available to help us answer this question. We believe, based on conversations with her as this budget was being prepared, that these costs are being shifted from the bond to the levy. The branch renovation issue addressed in question 12 below may be the reason for this shift, but we are not certain. In any case, the longstanding goal of the library is to spend 15% of operational expenditures on materials. Expenditures shown in the expansion budgets for these new branches count toward reaching that target. If the materials budgets associated with the expansions are reduced, the general allocation for books and materials for the system as a whole would have to be increased if the Library is to reach the target funding level.

- 10. Why aren't any grants or OCF gifts budgeted in 98/99? Won't staff addbacks allow more active solicitation role?**

I decided to exclude the entire revenue source when I put together the financial summary because I found the grant revenues difficult to predict. In retrospect I believe I should have included two major grants and would have if I had thought more carefully about the matter. The OCF annual contribution runs about \$450,000-\$500,000. Grants from the Library Foundation have been projected at a minimum of \$500,000 for each of the next five years. However, the Foundation has also made it very clear that their contributions are for enhancements only, not operating budget items.

- 11. I noticed that while the # of staff is scheduled to increase approximately 31% (from 323 to 424), the number of librarians increased about 86% (from 42 to 78). Is there some type of ratio you try to maintain between librarians and line staff? And, if so, is the ratio changing as a result of this levy?**

.To answer your question directly, there is no hard and fast rule or ratio of librarians to other staff.

Three librarians are anticipated for new locations (NW, Parkrose, East county), three are training positions. The remaining librarians are a function of increased hours. Twelve are youth librarian positions

September 25, 1997

for expanded hours at branches and Central. As our libraries are so heavily used by children and their families, we are making a substantial effort to build our capacity to provide services to parents, children, teenagers, home-schoolers, etc.

**12. Are the 37 positions added back this July in addition to the CSL and budget level of 323?**

No. The newspaper article I believe you got this number from was referring to hires, not new positions. The library was filling positions that were vacant at the end of last fiscal year. Some of the vacancies resulted from not hiring in the face of potential cuts when employees departed or left to find more stable employment. Seven of the positions were new with the new budget, staffing for the Youth Corps and for the bond projects. No positions have been added to the 323 authorized in the 97-98 Adopted Budget.

**13 Are the '96 g/o bond renovations scheduled for the Hillsdale, St. Johns, Hollywood and Belmont branches still planned? How will these impact operating costs? Is impact factored into levy?**

We do not know, yet, what renovations will be done in which branches. A study of the branches has been undertaken and the initial recommendations from it are scheduled to be presented to the Library Board Oversight Committee on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations should then be presented to the Library Board and the Board of County Commissioners by early 1998.

Renovations may have the effect of driving patrons away. However, it may be that the renovations will not close the branches, even temporarily, or that we might relocate temporarily if a branch is closed for renovation or that we might use some alternative service outlet. Until we know what is going to be done, it is hard to estimate whether there will be an impact on operating costs. If there is, see question 6 above.

**14 Was there any commitment made to the old library association regarding General fund support as part of the transition agreement?**

No. The only "commitments" were that we must plough back into library facilities any proceeds from the sale of any of the library branches and that we must continue the old library retirement payments.

**15. Are all branches scheduled to be open on Sunday?**

Yes. Actual scheduling will take place once the levy passes. The Board has directed that all branches be open on Sundays.

**16. Will all the budget cuts you made this year (i.e. bookmobile, Old Town Reading Room, Correction facility services) be added back if levy passes?**

The bookmobile, the Old Town Reading Room, and Correction facility services are not included in the addbacks. Decisions about not restoring the bookmobile and the Old Town Reading Room were based on program considerations as much as budget constraints.

The bookmobile is not regarded as an effective investment by Library management. It needs to be replaced and the cost of a new one is \$150,000, about the same as a fire engine.

The Old Town Reading Room was closed because a process improvement team studied our service to the homeless and determined that the Old Town Reading Room was no longer an effective way to serve that population. The team has proposed other ways of serving the homeless, and we will be looking at the most effective ways to provide that service,

The Correction facility services may be partly picked up with contributions from the Inmate Welfare Fund.

September 25, 1997

17. **Are Clackamas and Washington County's still paying Mult Co. \$60k each per year for out of resident use - or was this a M-47 / 50 casualty? Any idea if the amount received covers the related cost to serve?**

The most recent agreement was reached in 1993. Washington and Clackamas County's payment of \$60,000 each was based on their recognition of our "lead research collection role" in the Metro area and to compensate for use of the telephone reference system. Due to Central's reduced hours, Washington County will be cutting their payment by one-third this year (they would have cut it another third if telephone reference had been eliminated). Clackamas County has not made a decision at this point. Also, the reciprocal borrowing portion of the agreement has gotten much more even over the last couple of years . . . probably because these counties have improved their libraries and increased their open hours.

18. **I originally thought use of funds was as follows:**

<b>M-47 / M-50 Replacement</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Enhancements (above prior levy level)</b>	<b>9.5 (35.2 vs. 25.7)</b>
<b>Subsidy replacement</b>	<b>7.5</b>

**If we reclassify the one time subsidy of \$2m to the first category-since it's a M-47 casualty we end up with a split of 4.7 / 9.5 / 5.5. I think the only difference between my and your breakout gets to the treatment of the approximately \$1m in unexpected Central library costs. Is this accurate?**

Yes, I think that's as good a way of characterizing it as any.

19. **Total Mult Co. property taxes (for all jurisdictions) totaled to approximately \$650m last year. My guess is the M-50 will reduce this about 5% to approx. \$617m. If taxes grow 4% next year (3% plus growth) plus this local option levy of \$20.9m - I'm estimating we'll be back above the pre M-47 / M-50 level of property taxes. Do your commissioners have any inkling how this will impact other possible future local option requests, say for example, jails or education?**

We have not considered it in any depth. Obviously what you say is true. Equally obviously, assuming 4% growth in taxes, by 1999-2000 taxes will be back above the pre M47/50 levels whether this levy passes or not.

20. **Forecasted budget of \$35.2m includes \$2.2m in "indirect costs." This is essentially a transfer from the Library fund to the general fund for overhead reimbursement. In the past, these costs have been offset with the general fund transfer to the Library fund. As discussed, the county intends to discontinue the \$5.5m transfer from the general fund if the levy passes. I think what this means is that the benefit to the general fund if the levy passes is really (\$6.2m), not \$5.5 m. In other words, it's the discontinuation of the \$5.5m transfer plus the additional overhead reimbursements to be received (approximately \$700k). This assumes that general fund overhead costs will not increase significantly as a result of the new library services.**

Yes, I believe this is correct.



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

BEVERLY STEIN  
DAN SALTZMAN  
GARY HANSEN  
TANYA COLLIER  
SHARRON KELLEY

**BUDGET AND QUALITY**

PORTLAND BUILDING  
1120 S.W. FIFTH - ROOM 1400  
P. O. BOX 14700  
PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE (503)248-3883

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TO: Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission

FROM: Dave Warren, Principal Budget Analyst *DCW*

TODAY'S DATE: September 10, 1997

SUBJECT: Proposed 1998-2003 Library Levy

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Multnomah County proposes to levy \$0.5947 per thousand of assessed value for five years beginning July 1, 1998 for operations of the County Library system. This rate-based local option levy will replace the revenue lost to the Library system by passage of Measure 47.

The levy is on the November 4, 1997 ballot.

The measure:

- funds the level of operations approved by the voters in May 1996
- expands hours at branches
- expands hours at Central
- adds outreach to East County
- adds materials purchases
- improves and supports the information access technology of the system
- adds a branch in Northwest Portland
- adds operation of a branch at Parkrose
- enhances children's programs with a contract with the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC)
- assists the Oregon Historical Society.

The attached spreadsheets show the estimated annual costs of these components for the five-year period of the levy.

The ballot measure shows the estimated annual levy amounts from this rate-based levy as:

1998-99	20,932,833
1999-2000	21,770,146
2000-01	22,640,952
2001-02	23,546,590
2002-03	24,488,453

Inflation is assumed to be 3% per year over the five year period. Value growth (on which the change in tax revenue is dependent) is assumed to average 4% per year.

Note that the levy amounts exceed the net levy proceeds required to cover the costs of the Library program. Discounts and delinquent taxes reduce the amount of taxes collected in each of the years of the levy. In order to arrive at the amounts necessary to cover expenditures, the County must levy a higher amount.

Also attached is a five-year financial summary showing estimated revenues and expenditures in the Library Levy Fund. It shows that the Library Levy Fund will require \$71.8 million of General Fund support over the next three years to pay for the proposed level of program. This amount is the estimated revenue that will be recorded into the General Fund from the share of the County's Measure 50 permanent tax rate that results from rolling in the previous serial levy.

The local option levy will not be sufficient by itself to cover the cost of the proposed operations. The levy is proposed to cover the following items, listed in priority order.

#### **RESTORE THE 1996 LEVY PLAN**

Extend staff at Central and branches funded with one-time-only money in 97-8  
(\$2,147,000 in 1998-99).

In 1997-98 Multnomah County kept Central Library staffing at manageable levels by using \$1.17 million of one-time only money. The County also placed \$200,000 of one-time-only funding in the branch system (although that is not tied to any specific program).

The School Corps (new in 1997-98) is supported with \$200,000 of one-time General Fund and the entire telephone reference line (\$393,000) is similarly funded.

Restore hours at branches and Central. (about \$3,900,000 in 98-9)

The first proposal is to bring the hours of public access to the system back to the level proposed in the 1996 levy. The following table shows the number of hours each of the branches is open each week at the reduced funding level we have in 1997-98. It also shows how many hours we had the branches open in late October 1996, consistent with the original 1996 levy, just before the voters approved Measure 47 and reduced the size of the levy. Finally, it shows the number of hours that we propose adding at each branch beginning in 1998 by means of a local option property tax levy.

Restored Weekly Hours at Facilities (estimate)

Library	97-8 Hours	96 Approved Hours	Proposed Change
Central	38.5	69.5	31.0
Gresham	38.5	63.0	24.5
Midland	38.5	63.0	24.5
Albina	30.0	36.0	6.0
Belmont	38.5	45.0	6.5
Capitol Hill	30.0	36.0	6.0
Gregory Heights	30.0	36.0	6.0
Hillsdale	38.5	59.0	15.5
Holgate	30.0	55.0	25.0
Hollywood	38.5	59.0	20.5
North Portland	38.5	55.0	16.5
Rockwood	30.0	36.0	6.0
St. Johns	38.5	36.0	0
Sellwood-Moreland	30.0	36.0	6.0
Woodstock	38.5	36.0	0
	<u>526.5</u>	<u>720.5</u>	<u>194</u>

36.8% / 0

EXPAND SERVICES FOR 1998-99 AND THE FUTURE.Further increase hours for the branches and Central. (about \$757,000 in 1998-99)

This level of funding would open the branches for more hours in addition to the 1996 approved hours shown above. The exact configuration of these expanded hours requires further analysis, particularly with regard to scheduling of staff. However, the County Board has committed to having all libraries open four hours on Sunday afternoons, a pattern of access that will be different from preceding library services levels.

4 x  $\frac{14}{14}$  = 22 56Operate branches in NW Portland and Parkrose. (\$1,642,000 in 1998-99)

The County had included startup costs for these operations in the 96 levy. The 98 levy will include operating costs for the cooperative project with Parkrose School District and for a branch in Northwest Portland. Negotiations continue in pursuit of a site that will offer between 6,000 and 10,000 square feet that can be used for library services on a lease basis.

(45 + 20 Hours ?)

Bring materials budget to 15% of total operations costs. (\$2,199,000 in 1998-99)

The 1997-98 systemwide materials budget (not counting dedicated carryover of unspent book appropriations from 1996-97) is \$2,658,710, about 12.5% of the operating budget. A target of 15% of the operating budget was set in the 96 levy. The level of enhancements proposed for 98-9 and the future results in approximately \$2.2 million being added systemwide to buy books and materials.

Provide for ongoing maintenance and technology support and upgrades. (\$3,010,000 in 1998-99)

Because Measure 50, like Measure 47, limits the kinds of expenditures that can be paid out of bond proceeds, the County will need to use additional ongoing operational funding to pay for items that used to be considered appropriate for bond funding. This means that ongoing maintenance of Central, Midland, and Gresham branches will need to be covered by operating levy revenue. It also means that the computer systems that will carry the Library into the next century must be upgraded and replaced using operating levy revenue. We will need to accumulate a capital reserve to cover the expenses.

Facilities staff and Library technology staff have recommended the funding levels included in the levy. The technology replacement and maintenance contribution will be \$1,960,000. The facilities maintenance addition, about \$1,050,000, actually falls about \$500,000 short of the Facilities Management recommendation in the first year of the levy. By the fifth year, however, we expect that the amount contributed will reach the recommended level.

Establish an east county presence. (\$310,000 in 1998-99)

Although Gresham is a large and very heavily used branch, it is not particularly convenient to many library patrons in the growing northeast section of the County. An outreach program or contact point of some kind is needed there. What the configuration there will be, the Library is not yet certain. The levy assumes staffing equivalent to the smallest branches (Albina, Sellwood) for less than 40 hours per week.

RACC and OHS programs (\$512,000 in 1998-99)

The Oregon Historical Society provides public programs that parallel the activities of the County Library. Cooperating with OHS by providing funding for programs, displays, acquisitions, and conservation and providing public access to the special collections of the Historical Society are consistent with the Library's mission.

The Library will use additional Levy funding to contract with RACC to organize and provide art-focused programs at Central and the branches, particularly programs for children.

OFFSET ONGOING GENERAL FUND SUPPORTCover indirect costs from the Library levy. (\$2,224,000 in 1998-99)

While the Library theoretically pays for County provided overhead with a \$1.5 million payment, the 97-8 ongoing General Fund transfer to the Library is \$5.4 million. It is consistent with Board policy to cover the overhead costs of the Library with levy revenue, rather than using the General Fund as the funding source.

Offset remaining ongoing General Fund subsidy of the library system. (\$3,350,000 in 1998-99)



The 97-8 General Fund includes a large number of program components that are extended through the fiscal year with the one-time savings made by departments on an emergency basis as they responded to Measure 47. Freeing the General Fund from the need to supplement the Library levy would allow the County to deal more successfully with health clinic, animal control, and work crew supervision programs in 98-9 and the future.

#### The Permanent Tax Rate and Remaining General Fund Support

Measure 50 ends Multnomah County's tax bases and both special levies. However, it takes all authorized 1997-98 taxes, reduces them an average of 17% across the state as a whole, and converts them into a *permanent tax rate*.

In 1997-98, Multnomah County expects to collect about \$13.1 million from the 1996 Library Levy (which would have raised about \$15.7 million except for Measures 45/50). In 1998-99, we believe the permanent tax rate, partly based on the Library Levy it replaces, will produce about \$13.5 million which the General Fund would not have received except for the "fossil" Library Levy. The proposal is to continue this level of support from the General Fund, adjusted for inflation and growth in property taxes, into the future.

This is bound to cause some confusion. Since Measure 5 passed, General Fund support of the library system has averaged roughly \$6.5 million per year. In 1995-96 this support (\$6.6 million) constituted 30% of the total Library Fund revenue. Beginning in 1998-99 it will appear to increase to \$13.5 million per year. Because of the way Measure 50 works, there is no legal requirement that the County dedicate that level of support to the library system. However, as proposed, the local option levy will result in a library system funded roughly 62% by dedicated revenue from the levy and library operational revenues and with roughly 38% of its costs covered by a General Fund supplement.

#### Attachments

- c. Beverly Stein
- Tanya Collier
- Gary Hansen
- Sharron Kelley
- Dan Saltzman
- Ginnie Cooper
- Becky Cobb

## Summary of Program Enhancements and Restorations

Program	FTE	1998-99 Cost
Ongoing Base Budget	290.31	20,733,316
Extend 97-8 OTO Funding	32.02	2,147,143
Restored / Expanded Hours	72.00	4,657,213
NW and Parkrose Branches	14.50	1,642,002
Materials Purchase	3.00	2,198,756
Technology / Maintenance	8.50	3,010,411
East County	4.00	309,729
Historical Society / RACC	0.00	512,496
Total	424.33	35,211,066

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
History and Five Year Levy Estimates

	1996-97 Adopted	1996-97 CYE	1997-98	1998-99 Without Local Option Levy	1998-99 Levy Proposal	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Non-tax revenue									
BWC (undedicated)	387062	338,159	250,000	250,000	250,000	257,500	265,225	273,182	281,377
BWC (committed)	313403		1,070,181						
Grants	869558	1,088,668	747,768	750,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sales and fees	865921	776,595	529,097	530,000	750,000	787,500	826,875	868,219	911,630
Fines	617243	677,871	523,122	530,000	670,000	703,500	738,675	775,609	814,389
Subtotal non-tax revenue	3,053,187	2,881,293	3,120,168	2,060,000	1,670,000	1,748,500	1,830,775	1,917,009	2,007,396
General Fund Support									
Ongoing	6351234	6,351,234	5,532,252	5,532,252	0				
One Time Only		(800,000)	2,013,850	0					
Permanent Tax Rate contribution				13,531,064	13,531,064	13,936,996	14,355,106	14,785,759	15,229,331
Subtotal General Fund Support	6,351,234	5,551,234	7,546,102	19,063,316	13,531,064	13,936,996	14,355,106	14,785,759	15,229,331
Library Levy									
Serial Levy	14,411,761	14,411,761	13,136,426	part of County permanent tax rate					
Delinquent tax collections and interest	457,061	457,061	333,140	333,140	333,140	484,452	503,830	523,983	544,943
Local Option General Fund replacement					5,532,252				
Local Option Restorations and Enhancements					14,144,611	20,463,937	21,282,495	22,133,794	23,019,146
Subtotal Library Levy	14,868,822	14,868,822	13,469,566	333,140	20,010,003	20,948,389	21,786,325	22,657,778	23,564,089
Total Library Revenue	24,273,243	23,301,349	24,135,836	21,456,456	35,211,066	36,633,885	37,972,205	39,360,546	40,800,816
Tax Levy (assuming 6% discounts/delinquenc						20,932,833	21,770,146	22,640,952	23,546,590
Taxable Value						in millions	35,200,000	36,608,000	38,072,320
Tax Rate						per thousand	0.5947	0.5947	0.5947
Expenditures									
FTE			322		424	424	424	424	424
Personal Services			14,737,317		19,495,289	20,080,148	20,682,553	21,303,029	21,942,120
Contractual Services			537,340		1,082,070	1,114,532	1,147,968	1,182,407	1,217,880
Materials and Services			8,651,169		14,261,547	15,055,880	15,746,859	16,468,440	17,221,947
Capital			72,000		372,160	383,325	394,825	406,669	418,869
Total Library Expenditures			23,997,826		35,211,066	36,633,885	37,972,205	39,360,545	40,800,816

## INCREASES

## PERSONNEL

Job Class Position

	97-8		Ongoing CSL Cost		97-8 OTO Funded		Expanded Hours		NW / Parkrose	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
6001 Office Assistant 2	1.00	23,427	1.00	24,130		0		-		-
6002 Office Asst. / Senior	2.50	79,868	2.50	82,264		0		-		-
6003 Clerical Unit Supervisor	2.75	96,989	2.75	99,899		0		-		-
6005 Administrative Secretary	2.00	63,288	2.00	65,187		0		-		-
6021 Program Development Spec.	1.00	38,215	1.00	39,361		0		-		-
6023 Data Processing Specialist 2	1.00	43,669	1.00	44,979		0		-		-
6027 Fiscal Assistant / Senior	1.00	31,947	1.00	32,905		0		-		-
6109 Warehouse Worker	1.00	26,120	1.00	26,904		0		-		-
6111 Purchasing Specialist 2	1.00	41,396	1.00	42,638		0		-		-
6263 Volunteer Coordinator	1.00	37,684	1.00	38,815		0		-		-
7202 Library Clerk 2	86.75	2,337,063	83.74	2,240,832	3.01	82,820	18.00	499,471	5.50	152,616
7203 Library Page	61.72	1,362,422	60.21	1,335,795	1.51	33,168	14.00	318,311	3.00	68,209
7204 Library Page Senior	1.00	24,388	1.00	25,120		0		-		-
7205 Mail Clerk	0.75	16,583	0.75	17,080		0		-		-
7206 Outreach Driver	0.85	24,735	0.85	25,477		0		-		-
7207 Graphic Design / Production S	1.00	32,283	1.00	33,251		0	1.00	33,251		-
7208 Publications Specialist	1.00	35,915	1.00	36,992		0		-		-
7209 Printing Specialist	1.00	34,449	1.00	35,462		0		-		-
7210 Technical Services Assistant	6.00	205,250	6.00	211,408		0		-		-
7211 Library Assistant	32.70	1,114,875	21.70	385,827	11.00	376,209	14.00	491,636	2.00	70,234
7213 Technical Services Asst. / Seni	1.00	37,428	1.00	38,551		0		-		-
7222 Librarian 2	54.00	2,435,116	42.00	1,400,810	12.00	549,988	18.00	836,056	2.00	92,895
7223 Library Outreach Specialist	2.00	87,320	2.00	89,940		0		-		-
7224 Library Materials Processor	3.00	71,056	3.00	73,188		0		-		-
7229 Library Delivery Driver	2.50	72,750	2.50	74,933		0	0.50	14,987		-
7230 Production Assistant	0.50	13,060	0.50	13,472		0		-		-
7231 Library Computer Systems Op	4.50	157,858	4.50	162,594		0	4.50	162,594		-
9006 Administrative Analyst	1.00	39,595	1.00	40,783		0	1.00	40,783		-
9115 Program Development Spec/S	1.00	44,582	1.00	45,919		0	1.00	45,919		-
9773 Cataloging Administrator	1.00	59,929	1.00	61,727		0		-		-
9774 Circulation Administrator	1.00	53,953	1.00	55,572		0		-		-
9775 Deputy Director/Library	1.59	135,175	1.34	97,056	0.25	20,283		-		-
9776 Library Administrator/Branch	3.00	183,834	3.00	189,349		0		-		-
9777 Library Administrator/Central	1.00	60,304	0.00	0	1.00	60,304		-		-
9778 Library Automated System Ad	1.00	57,045	1.00	58,756		0		-		-
9779 Library Director	1.00	101,267	1.00	104,305		0		-		-
9780 Library Manager/Branch	2.00	144,104	2.00	148,427		0		-		-
9781 Library Manager/Central	0.50	36,132	0.00	0	0.50	36,132		-		-
9782 Library Manager/Senior	2.00	154,229	2.00	158,856		0		-		-
9784 Library Supervisor/Branch	13.97	628,557	12.97	553,855	1.00	47,216		-	2.00	92,686
9785 Library Supervisor/Central	5.50	258,883	4.00	124,082	1.50	69,845		-		-
9786 Library Support Services Admi	1.00	48,221	1.00	49,668		0		-		-
9787 Library Technical Supervisor	1.00	46,095	1.00	47,478		0		-		-
9788 Library Youth Services Coord	1.00	61,964	1.00	63,823		0		-		-
9790 Public Relations Coordinator	1.00	65,541	1.00	67,507		0		-		-
9792 Stack Services Supervisor	1.00	44,669	1.00	46,009		0		-		-
9793 Volunteer Prog/Bookstore Adm	1.00	59,696	1.00	61,487		0		-		-
9789 Central Library Coordinator	0.25	14,243	0.00	0	0.25	14,243		-		-
9800 Library Entrepreneurial Activitie	1.00	51,117	1.00	52,651		0		-		-
9802 Library Services Manager	3.00	185,274	3.00	190,832		0		-		-
9803 Library Events Coordinator	1.00	30,000	1.00	30,900		0		-		-
9999 Salary Savings	1.00	(547,439)	1.00	(563,862)		0		-		-

## INCREASES

## COSTS

	97-8		Ongoing CSL Cost		97-8 OTO Funded		Expanded Hours		NW / Parkrose	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
5100 Base	322.33	10,562,144	290.31	8,383,011	32.02	1,290,208	72.00	2,443,009	14.50	476,641
5200 Temporary		538,915		366,112		153,538				
5300 Overtime		53,037		51,680		2,948				
5400 Premium		4,681		4,821						
5500 Salary-Related Expenses		2,023,547		1,824,421		257,342		439,742		85,795
5550 Insurance Benefits		1,567,826		1,421,120		191,326		957,332		188,651
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		14,750,150		12,051,167		1,895,362		3,840,082		751,087
6050 County Supplements		98,620		101,579						
6060 Pass Through Payments		35,000		36,050						
6110 Professional Services		403,720		406,442		0				
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SVCS		537,340	-	544,070	-	0	-	-	-	-
6120 Printing		84,517		27,953		2,100				
6140 Communications		80,944		83,372						
6170 Rentals		37,089		38,202						
6180 Repairs and Maintenance		27,375		28,146		50				
6190 Maintenance Contracts		175,613		180,881						
6200 Postage		160,360		165,171						
6230 Supplies		407,789		286,000		53,850		50,000		215,000
6310 Education and Training		104,205		100,416		6,915		20,000		2,400
6330 Local Travel/Mileage		41,452		33,671		9,025		5,000		1,200
6610 Awards and Premiums		5,300		5,459						
6620 Dues and Subscriptions		12,351		12,722						
6650 Special programs Library		159,889		100,000		3,570				
6700 Library Books and Materials		3,527,037		2,764,521						500,000
7100 Indirect Costs		1,523,883		1,331,158		133,293		292,131		104,115
7150 Telephone		157,415		157,404		4,733				3,200
7200 Data Processing		29,142		30,016						
7250 Flat Fee		177,600		182,928						
7300 Motor Pool		12,063		12,425						
7350 Electronic Charge		2,750		2,833						
7400 Building Management		1,923,977		2,443,288		38,245		400,000		65,000
7500 Other Internal		48,226		49,673						
7550 Capital Lease Retirement		74,224		76,451						
7560 Distribution/Postage		3,135		3,229						
TOTAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES		8,776,336	-	8,115,919	-	251,781		767,131		890,915
8400 Equipment		72,000		22,160				50,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		72,000	-	22,160	-	0		50,000		
TOTAL BUDGET		24,135,826	-	20,733,316	-	2,147,143		4,657,213		1,642,002

## PERSONNEL

Job Class Position

	Materials Purchase		Technology, Maintenance, Capital		East County		Historical Society / RACC		Total New Levy Funding		Total 1998-99 Estimate	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
6001 Office Assistant 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	24,130	
6002 Office Asst. / Senior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.50	82,264	
6003 Clerical Unit Supervisor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.75	99,899	
6005 Administrative Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.00	65,187	
6021 Program Development Spec.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	39,361	
6023 Data Processing Specialist 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	44,979	
6027 Fiscal Assistant / Senior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	32,905	
6109 Warehouse Worker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	26,904	
6111 Purchasing Specialist 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	42,638	
6263 Volunteer Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	38,815	
7202 Library Clerk 2	2.00	55,497	-	-	1.00	27,748	-	29.51	818,153	113.25	3,058,985	
7203 Library Page	-	-	-	-	1.00	22,736	-	19.51	442,424	79.72	1,778,219	
7204 Library Page Senior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	25,120	
7205 Mail Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	0.75	17,080	
7206 Outreach Driver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	0.85	25,477	
7207 Graphic Design / Production S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	33,251	2.00	66,503	
7208 Publications Specialist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	36,992	
7209 Printing Specialist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	35,482	
7210 Technical Services Assistant	1.00	35,235	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	35,235	7.00	246,642	
7211 Library Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27.00	938,079	48.70	1,323,906	
7213 Technical Services Asst. / Seni	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	38,551	
7222 Librarian 2	-	-	3.00	139,343	1.00	46,448	-	36.00	1,664,730	78.00	3,065,540	
7223 Library Outreach Specialist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.00	89,940	
7224 Library Materials Processor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	3.00	73,188	
7229 Library Delivery Driver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.50	14,987	3.00	89,919	
7230 Production Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	0.50	13,472	
7231 Library Computer Systems Op	-	-	3.00	108,396	-	-	-	7.50	270,990	12.00	433,583	
9006 Administrative Analyst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	40,783	2.00	81,566	
9115 Program Development Spec/S	-	-	1.50	68,879	-	-	-	2.50	114,799	3.50	160,718	
9773 Cataloging Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	61,727	
9774 Circulation Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	55,572	
9775 Deputy Director/Library	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	20,283	1.59	117,339	
9776 Library Administrator/Branch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	3.00	189,349	
9777 Library Administrator/Central	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	60,304	1.00	60,304	
9778 Library Automated System Ad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	58,756	
9779 Library Director	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	104,305	
9780 Library Manager/Branch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.00	148,427	
9781 Library Manager/Central	-	-	1.00	74,432	-	-	-	1.50	110,564	1.50	110,564	
9782 Library Manager/Senior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	2.00	158,866	
9784 Library Supervisor/Branch	-	-	-	-	1.00	46,343	-	4.00	186,245	16.97	740,100	
9785 Library Supervisor/Central	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.50	69,845	5.50	193,927	
9786 Library Support Services Admi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	49,668	
9787 Library Technical Supervisor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	47,478	
9788 Library Youth Services Coord	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	63,823	
9790 Public Relations Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	67,507	
9792 Stack Services Supervisor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	46,009	
9793 Volunteer Prog/Bookstore Adm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	61,487	
9789 Central Library Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.25	14,243	0.25	14,243	
9800 Library Entrepreneurial Activitie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	52,651	
9802 Library Services Manager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	3.00	190,832	
9803 Library Events Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	30,900	
9999 Salary Savings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0	1.00	(563,862)	

## COSTS

	Materials Purchase		Technology, Maintenance, Capital		East County		Historical Society / RACC		Total New Levy Funding		Total 1998-99 Estimate	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
5100 Base	3.00	90,731	8.50	391,050	4.00	143,276	0.00	-	134.02	4,834,914	424.33	13,217,926
5200 Temporary										153,538		519,650
5300 Overtime										2,948		54,628
5400 Premium										0		4,821
5500 Salary-Related Expenses		16,332		70,389		25,790		-		895,389		2,719,810
5550 Insurance Benefits		36,902		140,731		55,224		-		1,570,167		2,991,286
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE		143,966		602,170		224,290		-		7,456,956		19,508,122
6050 County Supplements								280,000		280,000		381,579
6060 Pass Through Payments										0		36,050
6110 Professional Services				58,000				200,000		258,000		664,442
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SVCS	-	-	-	58,000	-	-	-	480,000		538,000		1,082,070
6120 Printing										2,100		30,053
6140 Communications										0		83,372
6170 Rentals										0		38,202
6180 Repairs and Maintenance										50		28,196
6190 Maintenance Contracts				63,000						63,000		243,881
6200 Postage										0		165,171
6230 Supplies				763,000		1,000				1,082,850		1,368,850
6310 Education and Training						600				29,915		130,331
6330 Local Travel/Mileage						1,000				16,225		49,896
6610 Awards and Premiums										0		5,459
6620 Dues and Subscriptions										0		12,722
6650 Special programs Library										3,570		103,570
6700 Library Books and Materials		1,915,374				60,000				2,475,374		5,239,895
7100 Indirect Costs		139,417		171,860		19,639		32,496		892,951		2,224,109
7150 Telephone						3,200				11,133		168,537
7200 Data Processing										0		30,016
7250 Flat Fee										0		182,928
7300 Motor Pool										0		12,425
7350 Electronic Charge										0		2,833
7400 Building Management				1,052,382						1,555,627		3,998,915
7500 Other Internal										0		49,673
7550 Capital Lease Retirement										0		76,451
7560 Distribution/Postage										0		3,229
TOTAL MATERIALS AND SUP		2,054,791		2,050,242		85,439		32,496		6,132,795		14,248,714
8400 Equipment				300,000						350,000		372,160
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		-		300,000						350,000		372,160
TOTAL BUDGET		2,198,756		3,010,411		309,729		512,496		14,477,751		35,211,066

+700 now

BALLOT TITLE

CAPTION:

MEASURE 26-58

Public Library Five Year Serial Levy

QUESTION:

Shall Multnomah County operate Libraries, levy 59.47 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, outside permanent rate for five years beginning 1998-99?

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

The proposed levy will be in effect for five years.

SUMMARY:

This measure may be passed only at an election with at least 50 percent voter turnout.

Levy keeps the Central Library and all branch libraries open to the public and provides these expanded services:-

- More library hours at Central and all branch libraries;
- All branches will have Sunday afternoon hours;
- Open busiest libraries on Mondays;
- More books and other library materials;
- Children's library programs including story hours, homework help, art programs, special reading initiatives, and services to children in day care;
- Special library programs for all audiences including adults, seniors, and youth on local history, computers and other subjects;



If the levy is not approved, library services will remain at current reduced level with shortened hours, fewer books and fewer services.

Levy cost estimate is 59.47 cents per \$1,000 assessed value per year. Typical home pays an additional \$6 per month as a result of this levy.

The levy, dedicated to library operations, is estimated to provide \$19.7 million in 1998-99, \$20.4 million in 1999-2000, \$21.3 million in 2000-01, \$22.1 million in 2001-02, and \$23 million in 2002-03.

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 the estimate.

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:**

Measure 26-58 will renew library operations, allowing the libraries to provide services planned prior to passage of Measure 47. It will help operate the downtown Central Library, and all library branches: Gresham, Midland, St. Johns, North Portland, Albina, Hollywood, Gregory Heights, Rockwood, Holgate, Woodstock, Belmont, Sellwood-Moreland, Hillsdale and Capitol Hill.

#### Increased Hours for County Libraries

It will increase the number of days and hours these libraries are open and will increase the amount spent on books and other library materials. It will provide for the opening and operation of two new libraries, one in Northwest Portland and one in cooperation with the Parkrose School District.

#### Who the Library Serves

The Multnomah County Library serves the people of Multnomah County by providing books and other materials to meet their information, education, cultural, and recreation needs.

The County Library system is among the busiest in the nation and provides services every year to over 500,000 library card holders; over 70% of the people who live in Multnomah County. Nearly 8.5 million books and

other library materials are borrowed from the library each year. Library staff annually responds to more than 800,000 requests for information. More than 1,000 people a day access the library by dialing in to the library's automated system.

### What the Library Provides: Books and More

Approving the library levy will provide for the following:

- All branches will have Sunday afternoon hours.
- Operating and staffing downtown Central Library, Gresham Library, Midland Library, and 12 other branch libraries located throughout Multnomah County.
- Restoring and extending hours at the Central and branch libraries.
- Buying more books and other library materials and continuing improvements in library technology.
- Operating and staffing two new branches, a medium sized library in Northwest Portland and a small branch in cooperation with Parkrose School District.
- Improving library service to children, adults and senior citizens with special needs.
- Providing 24-hour-a-day access to DYNA, the library's computerized card catalog and community resource and events calendar data base, and increasing access to other computerized information for the public.
- Expanding special programs for children including story hours for toddlers, services for children in daycare, homework help for students, art programs and reading initiatives. Offering adult and senior citizen programs on technology and other subjects.
- Providing information and reference materials for students, job-seekers, business users and the general public.
- Gaining free access for Multnomah County residents to the special library collections housed at the Oregon Historical Society

This library levy is about 59.47 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The typical home in Multnomah County pays an additional \$6 per month over five years for library operations and the services listed above.

Revised 8/21/97

PROPOSALS TO ELECTORATE  
COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH

ELECTION DATE	PROPOSAL	CANVASS OF VOTE	
		YES	NO
May 21, 1996	G.O. Bonds in the amount of \$79.7 million to expand adult, juvenile corrections facilities; improve criminal tracking. Reg. voters 379,560, votes cast 123,209, 32% turnout.	64,135	51,736

PROPOSALS TO ELECTORATE  
COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH

LECTION DATE	PROPOSAL	CANVASS OF VOTE	
		YES	NO
Mar. 27, 1990	Three-year Serial Levy for operation and expansion of Multnomah County Library System. \$10,300,000 each year, 1990-91 thru 1992-93. Reg. voters 299,436- votes cast 149,462 - 44.8% turnout.	75,685	56,846
May 15, 1990	Shall the County's portion of the District Attorney's salary be adjusted annually by the local CPI not to exceed 5½%.	57,300	71,652
May 15, 1990	Shall the salary for the County Sheriff be adjusted annually by the local CPI not to exceed 5½%	61,633	67,529
May 15, 1990	Shall the salary for the County Chair and Commissioners be adjusted annually by the local CPI not to exceed 5½%	45,951	82,447
Sept. 18, 1990	General Obligation Bond Issue for replacement of County Juvenile Detention facility. Reg. voters 311,952 - votes cast 129,669 - 41.5% turnout. Amount of bond issue was \$23,800,000.	49,395	79,465
May 18, 1993	Three-year Serial Levy to continue jail operations. \$0.5288 per \$1,000 assessed valuation beginning 1993-94. Reg. voters <del>30,488</del> <sup>377,368</sup> - votes cast <del>12,025</del> <sup>142,517</sup> <del>37.7%</del> <sup>37.7%</sup> turnout.	112,270	28,371
May 18, 1993	Three-year Serial Levy to continue library operations. \$0.4034 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 1993-94. Reg. voters <del>377,368</del> <sup>377,368</sup> votes cast <del>142,517</del> <sup>142,517</sup> 37.7% turnout.	110,479	30,549
May 18, 1993	<sup>in the amount of \$31,000,000</sup> General Obligation Bond Issue for renovation and reconstruction of library facilities. Reg. voters <del>377,368</del> votes cast <del>142,517</del> <sup>142,517</sup> 37.7% turnout.	98,239	42,222
May 21, 1996	Three-year Serial Levy to keep public libraries open. 40.34 cents per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 1996-97. Reg. voters 379,560, votes cast 123,209, 32% turnout.	85,923	32,794
May 21, 1996	Three year Serial Levy to operate jails, book suspects, track criminals. 77.96 cents per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 1996-97. Reg. voters 379,560, votes cast 123,209, 32% turnout.	68,431	47,339
May 21, 1996	G.O. Bond Issue to repair library branches, improve access to computers, technology in the amount of \$29 million. Reg. voters 379,560, votes cast 123,209, 32% turnout.	73,281	44,458

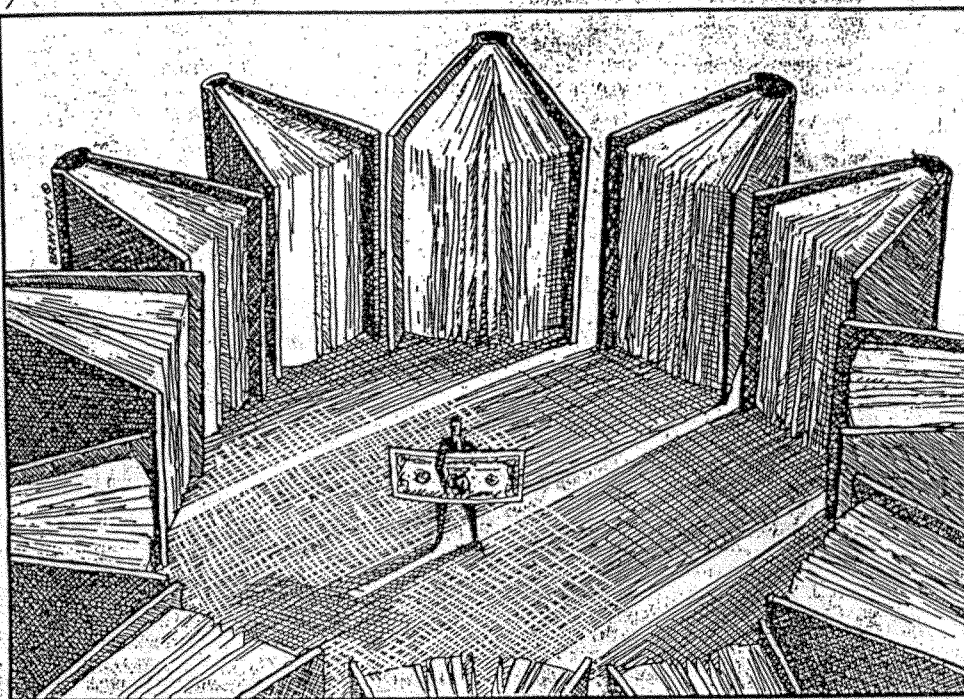
PROPOSALS TO ELECTORATE  
COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH

ELECTION DATE	PROPOSAL	CANVASS OF VOTE	
		YES	NO
11-7-78	Increase Hotel Tax to promote Conventions, from 5% to 6%. Proceeds from the 1% increase to be expended only for contracting with private organizations for the promotion of convention business and tourism into Multnomah County.	110,623	76,520
11-4-80	Formation of Peoples Utility District to be formed in Multnomah County and authority to levy a tax of \$250,000 for engineers report.	95,355	121,088
6-30-81	<u>Ballot A</u> Three-year serial levy for operating costs and various county services including sheriff, district attorney, library, juvenile services and community health services in the amount of \$2,133,655, per year.	27,928	27,081
	<u>Ballot B</u> Three year Serial Levy for operating and services including public health programs, county library, parks, courts & corrections, in the amount of \$2,940,000 per year. Reg. voters 336,669 Votes Cast 55,449 16.4%	24,789	28,839
May 15, 1984	Three-year Serial Levy, \$3,000,000 each year for library operations. Reg. voters 338,821, votes cast 173,726 51.2% turnout.	88,718	69,960
May 15, 1984	To establish a Multnomah County Library Commission.	76,824	76,941
May 15, 1984	Three-year Serial Levy for County Justice Services \$5,150,399 each year to be used for corrections, juvenile services and District Attorney. Reg. Voters 338,821 - votes cast 173,726 - 51.2% turnout.	49,426	100,061
Nov. 6, 1984	Three-year serial levy in the amount of \$5,150,399 per year for jails, corrections, prosecution and juvenile services. Reg. voters 352,263 - Votes Cast 274,829 - 78% turnout.	106,747	123,508
March 31, 1987	Three-year Serial levy for Library services. Multnomah County registered voters 304,055- Votes cast 137,901 - 45.3% turnout. * 7,500,000 per year	80,887	54,630
June 30, 1987	Three-Year Serial Levy for additional minimum security Jail space. Reg. voters 283,029 - votes cast 152,848 - 54% turnout * 4,700,000 per yr	111,713	40,373
Nov. 7, 1989	Three year Servial Levy for Jail Space and Treatment for drugs and alcohol. \$13,500,000 annually. Reg. voters 320,389 - votes cast 149,462 - 46.5% turnout.	89,983	58,136

# Let library users pay

8-25-97

Free-based system would be the fairest way to offer library services



TIM BRINTON

Cannon Beach has a library that is privately funded and run by volunteers. The entire Riverside County, Calif., library system is privately managed. Multnomah County could learn a page from these and other examples to hold down costs and improve service. Cannon Beach's library of 15,000 books is much to learn from. For example, it recently implemented a one-time \$5 membership fee. Those who directly benefit from the library support it directly. To ensure that libraries are open to all, individuals who can't afford a small fee could perform a few hours of work in exchange for borrowing privileges.

Another option is to contract out library operations. This summer, California's Riverside County public library system became entirely operated by a private company.

Library Systems and Services Inc., based in Maryland, has pledged to boost hours by 25 percent, increase the annual book budget from \$144,000 to \$180,000, and retain all library personnel at current salary levels — all for one of the lowest per-capita spending levels in the nation.

According to an Aug. 11 article in the Los Angeles Times, Library Systems has already hired more clerical staff. This increased the ability to get books back on the shelves faster.

Company co-founder, Frank Pezzanite says that with government, the first people let go when funds are cut are, "the little people. Then professionals at higher salaries are spending their time doing nonprofessional tasks." Library systems has provided management services at the Library of Congress, the Boston Public Library and the Smithsonian Institution.

## Library history

Unfortunately, few know much about the private history of public libraries, which includes Multnomah County's Central Library. Until just after the turn of the century, Central Library was a private institution.

Elizabeth Larson, in the March 1994 Reason magazine, notes that 19th century libraries, both here and abroad, were usually run by church leaders or philanthropists, and were often subscription libraries. The annual dues

were low and were waived for those who could not afford them. In towns without full-fledged libraries, booksellers and other merchants often filled the void. . . . British booksellers offered books for loan, and shopkeepers operated small circulating libraries alongside of liquor, shoe buckles and hats."

Edward Banfield, an urban historian at Har-

Renewing the practice of user, or subscription, fees would help depoliticize library budgets and operations. Furthermore, user fees would be more fair. We should not tax everyone for services that only some use.

Yard University, reports that several thousand rental libraries were still operating in the United States as late as the 1960s. However, tax-supported government libraries have driven most of the commercial book lenders and many private libraries out of business. It's hard to sell something when the government is giving it away for free.

Nevertheless, private subscription libraries still operate in this country. Larson notes at least seventeen subscription libraries are open in Boston, Newport and elsewhere. New York City is home to two thriving subscription libraries: The New York Society Library, founded in 1754, and the Library of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, founded in 1820.

Renewing the practice of user, or subscription, fees would help depoliticize library budgets and operations. Furthermore, user fees would be

more fair. We should not tax everyone for services that only some use.

The current tax system supporting libraries is regressive; it transfers wealth from the poor, who are less likely to use libraries, to the well-to-do, who use them more. Beyond economic justice, policy analyst Robert W. Poole Jr. advocates user fees over general taxation for several reasons, chief among them — flexibility, freedom and fairness.

Indeed, services can be much more flexible and responsive when they are priced. Program and service changes can be made faster when the users, rather than all taxpayers, foot the bill. To take advantage of this benefit, managers should be allowed to initiate new programs and terminate the old in response to user demand.

## Freedom of choice

Substituting user charges for taxes would allow Oregonians the freedom to make more of their own decisions and control their own lives and resources.

Pricing also solves the free-rider problem. Often nonresidents take advantage of local government services without paying for them. User fees solve this problem. They charge everyone who takes advantage of a service, regardless of where they live.

User fees also ensure that growth pays for itself. User fees are much better than politically popular development fees. No one knows how much a new resident is going to use a library. And no one can guarantee that development charges will actually go to the library. User fees are best; they provide a direct link between the consumer and service provider.

Many people keep repeating — and believing — the false dilemma that people must either pay higher taxes or services must be cut. To the contrary, workable alternatives do exist, and we would all be better served if they were researched further and publicized.

Kurt T. Weber is program director for the Cascade Policy Institute in Southwest Portland.



IN MY OPINION

Kurt T. Weber



# tion for a healthier pace

plant, will race-walk in the Portland-to-Coast Relay, which begins this morning. He and 11 teammates living with new lives — hearts, kidneys or corneas are out to prove that popular perception — the one that paints life after organ transplantation as sickly, cautious, even bedridden — simply isn't so.

"Anybody who has gone through something like this," Fox said, "lives life to the fullest."

New research and stories such as Fox's indicate that his attitude and athletic life-

style might be the best approach for many of the 200 or more patients who get organ transplants each year at Oregon-Health Sciences University.

Doctors there — OHSU is Oregon's only transplant hospital — have performed more than 3,000 organ transplants since 1959. Survival rates are among the best in the nation. After three years, for example, kidney transplant patients whose new or-

Please turn to  
**TRANSPLANTS**, Page B8

“

*Anybody who has gone through something like this lives life to the fullest.*

Bert Fox,  
liver transplant recipient

”

## Multnomah County will vote on levy to restore library cuts

■ The \$100 million measure would return libraries to regular hours, including Sundays

By DAVID AUSTIN  
of The Oregonian staff

Multnomah County voters will decide in November whether to restore library hours, including Sundays, and increase the money spent on books and other materials.

■ **INSIDE:** Multnomah County commissioners on Thursday placed a measure on the Nov. 4 ballot asking voters to double the vehicle registration fee/ B5

Thursday, the Multnomah County commissioners unanimously approved placing a five-year levy — totaling more than \$100 million — on the Nov. 4 ballot. The commissioners say the levy would secure library financing until 2004.

If approved, libraries would get about \$18.5 million for the rest of the 1997-98 fiscal year. The following year, the amount would go up to roughly \$19.7 million, increasing about 4 percent a year after that.

The levy would cost property owners about 59 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. The average homeowner — with a house valued at just more than

### LIBRARY LEVY

Multnomah County commissioners are putting a library operating levy on the Nov. 4 ballot.

■ **WHAT IS IT?** A five-year levy totaling more than \$100 million

■ **WHAT WILL IT COST?** 59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation

■ **WHAT WILL IT DO?** Increase library hours; open Central Library and all branches on Sundays; open new branches in Parkrose and Northwest Portland; increase the budget for books and materials.

\$122,000 — would pay about \$72 a year.

The county would add another \$14.5 million each year from other county sources.

According to county budget officials, the levy would:

■ Restore previously cut hours. Central, Midland and Gresham libraries are open 38.5 hours a week.

Please turn to  
**LIBRARY**, Page B5

rections' inspector general.

The misconduct occurred for about a year starting in March 1996, but Corrections Director Dave Cook said it was confined to only a few of the Intensive Management Unit's staff. The initial investigation started in mid-April with only a couple of officers but "mushroomed" to nine, Cook said. Although only five officers were indicted, four oth-

Please turn to  
**PRISON**, Page B5

## Worker's punch workplace injury, high court rules

■ A co-worker's anger is a job-related risk now covered by workers' compensation

By ASHBEL S. GREEN  
of The Oregonian staff

A man who received a punch in the face after calling his black co-worker a racist name is eligible for workers' compensation benefits for his injuries, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The court unanimously found that although the conversation and related events leading up to the assault were not about work, the injury was work-related.

"Just as the workplace exposes an employee to a myriad of risks that inhere in the physical workplace environment — such as machines and office equipment that can malfunction — the workplace also exposes employees to the risk that a co-employee may lose control of his or her emotions and assault the employee," Justice Ted Kulongsoski wrote.

As a result, the risk is associated with work, the court ruled.

Jerald P. Keene, a lawyer for the company that employed the two men, said the ruling essentially rewarded the man for using racist epithets.

"That's a pretty surprising message to come out of the Supreme Court," Keene said.

But David Kittle, who represented the victim of the assault, said the use of racist epithets distorted what was a much simpler case.

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**COURT**, Page B6

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MUR

# Library: Plan for user fees fails to win board support

■ Continued from Page B1

Before voters passed the property tax limitation measures 47 and 50, those branches had increased to as much as 69 hours.

■ Establish permanent Sunday hours at Central Library and the 14 branches. Branches would be open at least four hours on Sundays.

■ Increase the budget for books, computers and other materials by \$2 million.

■ Open branches in Northwest Portland and Parkrose during the 1998-99 fiscal year, and increase service to the northeastern end of the county.

The county's library budget increased slightly this year to about \$24 million. But library officials said they needed about \$26.1 million because the re-opening of the newly renovated Central branch boosted costs and the new Midland branch needed more staff members.

About 10 people testified Thursday, mostly in support of putting the levy on the ballot.

Craig Berkman, who will run the campaign for the levy, told the commissioners they took a positive step toward helping children.

But John Charles of the Cascade Policy Institute told commissioners that the levy is a mistake. He prefers user fees, he said, noting that as a Clackamas County resident, he can check out books from Multnomah County at no cost.

"There's a fairness, an equity, an efficiency in such a system, and it would eliminate the 'free rider' problem," Charles said. "For books alone it could generate about \$6 million."

But Nancy Hauth told commissioners that a user fee would "cut out about three-quarters of the people who want and need libraries" at the Albina branch.

Later in the hearing, Ginnie Cooper, director of libraries, said Clackamas and Washington counties each pay Multnomah County \$60,000 for library services.

Ken Brody of Southwest Portland said that although he supports the levy, he wonders how the library budget for the year increased and hours were cut so drastically.

"I can't understand that with the same payroll, the same funding for supplies, why we're seeing nearly a 50 percent reduction in hours now," Brody said. "We're spending the same amount of money behind closed doors."

Saltzman didn't have a problem persuading the commissioners to amend the levy to include permanent Sunday hours.

"Sunday hours are something we've all longed for," he said. "We've put our citizens through so many gyrations on this issue, they don't even know when the doors are open."

Commissioner Tanya Collier failed to persuade her colleagues to keep \$5.5 million of general fund dollars for the libraries.

Collier said the \$5.5 million would make a positive statement about the county's support for the library.

Cooper said she believes the levy will have overwhelming support. But she worries about the law that requires a 50 percent turnout of registered voters to pass it.

"I'm worried less about how many will vote 'Yes' than I am about turnout," she said. "It's a new challenge for us. It means that we have to make sure that people don't just go by themselves and vote, but that they drag along their friends and neighbors, too."

*David Austin covers Multnomah County, social services and toxics for The Oregonian's City Life team. He can be reached by phone at 221-5383, by e-mail at [davidaustin@news.oregonian.com](mailto:davidaustin@news.oregonian.com) or by fax at 294-5023.*



# The Sunday Oregonian

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## Open library doors

*Library, in turn, will open world's doors  
to people of all incomes thirsting for knowledge*

See that crowd assemble at noon in front of the Central Library in downtown Portland? The people there want to be — and ought to be — inside.

The way to open those doors more than just 38.5 hours a week — the library's current operating hours — is for voters to replace the money the library lost to Measures 47 and 50, the latest state tax-reform initiatives.

Multnomah County voters said no to Measure 47, but the initiative was approved statewide. Voters here said yes to Measure 50, the Legislature's attempt to bring coherence to property tax laws, but the correction still left Multnomah County's libraries short of the service level intended when local voters approved a three-year operating levy in May 1996.

Doubtless, the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners will place on the Nov. 4 special-election ballot a new, five-year operating levy requested by the citizens Library Board. The only question appears to be the actual amount of the levy.

We think it should be enough to restore Measure 47's cuts in library hours, in the budget for buying books and materials, and in the information-referral service. We also favor increasing library hours even more and boosting the books and materials budget to a level where librarygoers can stay current with changing events and technology.

The levy also ought to provide for maintenance of buildings and equipment, and it should include money to operate long-promised branches in Parkrose and Northwest Portland.

That all adds up to about \$12 million a year. What is on the table, though, is an annual levy in the range of \$18 million.

The difference has to do with possibly replacing what some county offi-

cials describe as the county's general-fund subsidy. That's the amount the county is spending on the library system from its general fund in addition to the 1996 levy amount. If that "subsidy" was replaced through a new levy, it could be redirected to health clinics and other county services.

We don't see the money as a library "subsidy," however. We see it as a county obligation and recognition that the libraries are among the county's basic services. It is a reminder of the commitment the county made to support the libraries

when it accepted them from the private founders and gained passage of the special levy.

Continuing that general fund allocation also would allow the county to maintain at least some level of library services in the unlikely event that voters rejected renewal of an operating-levy request in the future.

As important as other county services are, let's not raid the libraries to pay for them.

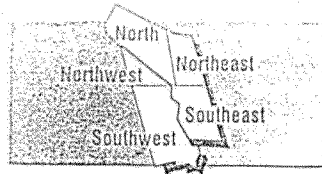
Before deciding on the levy, commissioners have scheduled two public hearings. One will be Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Central Library — in the foyer meeting room, since the inner doors to the library itself will be closed because of the funding problem. The other will be Aug. 21, at the County Commission's meeting room in the Portland Building during the commission's formal consideration of the proposal.

Citizens should let the commissioners know what they think. We hope it will be to support a levy that will provide quality library service, but with the county's general fund also continuing to pick up its share of this important county service. An accessible Multnomah County Public Library is a basic component of this community's livability — and also its future.

*“The world is changing more rapidly than ever before. If you give people the right tools, if you give them the right opportunities — they can do great things.”*

— Bill Gates  
Microsoft chairman

April 28, when he announced a \$1.5 million gift for a technology center at the Detroit, Mich., Public Library



# PORTLAND

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## Crowd urges county to put up library levy

Commissioners have until Thursday to decide to ask voters to approve \$18 million for longer library hours and more service.

By DAVID AUSTIN  
of The Oregonian Staff

Nearly 100 people packed into Multnomah County's Central Library Monday night and urged the board of commissioners to place a five-year operating levy on the November ballot to increase branch hours and provide extra support for a system slashed by property tax limitation measures.

"The public deserves to have a

first-class library system and it's within our reach," Angel Lopez, chairman of the library's board of directors, told the commissioners at the first of two public hearings. "We're here in a time of want. We don't like it and we know you don't like it either."

Fifteen-year-old Katherine Yamashita, who will be a high school sophomore in the fall at St. Mary's Academy, told the commissioners that if library hours aren't restored her learning experience will suffer.

"We get lots of homework and when the library isn't open during the day and at lunch, we have to come here late at night," Yamashita said. "As kids, we're the future of

America. And without the library, our educations may not be all that it could be."

In all, 22 people addressed the commissioners and urged them to support a roughly \$18 million levy for the Nov. 4 ballot. The commissioners face a Thursday deadline to decide whether to put the levy on the ballot. The public gets a final chance that morning to address commissioners at their regular board meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Portland Building.

If voters pass a new levy, the money would be used to restore slashed hours at the Central Library and the 14 other branches. Also, it would increase the amount spent on

books, computers and other materials used by the public.

Cecily Quintana, an art gallery owner, said the library serves as a cultural resource for many people. She told the commissioners of the calls she gets from people wanting to learn more about Hispanics and other cultures.

"It's easy. The library is the place that offers a lot," she said.

Per Fagereng drew a round of laughter and applause when he suggested that library supporters figure out a way to make the system's budget invincible to property tax limitations such as Measures 47 and 50. "There are some things that people don't have a choice on," Fagereng said. "We don't get to vote on the CIA's budget, do we? The library needs to be in the same position."

The library budget for 1997-98 stands at about \$24 million. That includes a portion of the library levy passed in May 1996. Library officials wanted an operating budget for the fiscal year of roughly \$26.1 million.

But Oregon voters passed Measure 47 and local governments had to slash budgets. Voters later supported Measure 50, the earlier limitation's rewrite that gave some money back to the counties. But cuts were inevitable.

In the case of Multnomah County's library system, Measure 50 rolled the May 1996 levy money into

the entire county pot and couldn't be used exclusively for libraries.

If it passes, the new library levy would:

- Restore an estimated \$4 million for hours at the Central Library and the 14 other branches. Currently, the larger branches are open an average of 38.5 hours per week. The money would increase hours to 69.

- Dedicate toward the library an estimated \$19.7 million in 1998-99, along with a roughly 4 percent increase each year until 2004.

- Increase the materials budget by \$2 million.

- Allow the library to fill a number of librarian positions beyond the 1997-98 fiscal year.

# Check library's card

Let's get clear explanations of library budget before fall-elections static drowns them out

8-19-97

**W**hat is the library doing with all those people while cutting hours? Are they building a crisis to force us to vote for a library levy?

Multnomah County Library budgets since 1995-96 force the questions. They need to be answered by Thursday. That's when county commissioners will vote on sending a \$20 million levy to the Nov. 4 ballot.

Two factors make instant answers urgent: credibility and audibility.

Voters ignore or rebel against what they don't trust. So credibility is the more pressing issue. Before the commissioners vote, suspicion must be erased that the library has manufactured a crisis to get voters to say yes to a fat levy. Multnomah County voters usually support levies even when they disagree with some library policies. But support requires trust that budgets and policies aren't twisted to deceive, manipulate and exploit the voters.

Audibility is critical because willingness to listen and ability to hear often differ. Static would drown out library budget justifications after Labor Day. That's when shout shows begin over ballot issues.

Doctor-assisted-suicide debates will assault us like heavy-metal rock music. Worshipers of Oregon's lowest-in-the-nation auto registration fees can be expected to howl over the pos-

sible doubling of those fees to repair county roads and bridges.

The library will get little attention against this competition in the fall. So budget confusion must be cleared away now — while voters can hear the answers.

The budget as presented leaves this library fan wondering:

Why did the 1997-98 budget cut of less than 1 percent (to \$24.1 million) and a staffing cut of 7.7 percent (down 28 people to 323) slash large-branch service by 44 percent (from 69 hours to 38.5 hours)? Why do we face fewer service hours now than two years ago even though the library has 21 more workers? How do we know we are getting value for money now, and why should we pay more?

Ginnie Cooper, library director, has plausible answers. Many are convincing. A few deserve follow-up. Some key items:

People retire, leave for other jobs, die, so actual staffing is almost always lower than budgeted. Eighteen fewer people worked for the library in 1995-96 than were budgeted, and this budget year is likely to be similar.

A second point, says Cooper, is that the county general fund supports 32 library positions for this year only. They will be cut unless other funding is found. Subtracting those jobs tells us that the library can afford 291 full-time jobs on an ongoing basis without the levy. That is lower than the 321 budgeted in 1995-96 and the 302 actual.

Also, says Cooper, neither the Central Library nor Midland Branch operated at full strength two years ago. Midland actually was closed all of the year. So it is wrong to assume that then and now are easily compared. The library didn't have full service then and doesn't

have it now. Obviously, too, the new Central Library has higher public use and costs than the temporary quarters.

The library also provides some different services since 1995-96, none of which has been scaled back this year. Five staff members fan out to show students and teachers how to use the county-provided link between school computers and the library. One goes to in-home day-care centers to foster better preschool education. One pursues grants to add to taxpayer funding. Another coordinates volunteers who add services and lower library expenses. All of these appear valuable in meeting broad public goals.

Cooper clarifies the numbers in other ways. This budget includes "an unusually high carryover" of \$1.6 million of committed but unspent money for materials and Library Foundation grant money received late last year. It includes \$2.1 million of one-time-only money gained by midyear cutbacks owing to the cut-and-cap Measure 47.

So by Cooper's reckoning the budget looks more like \$20.1 million than \$24.1 after subtracting the carryover and one-time-only tax support. From that base she believes that a compelling case — unshrouded by statistical confusion — supports a \$20 million, five-year library levy.

Of that, \$6.7 million restores money approved by voters in 1996 but lost to Measure 47. The rest deals with adding branch libraries and services, adding hours at all branches, buying more books and computer services and paying staff to do the work.

Recent library budgets reflect substandard service. They are not benchmarks for success or satisfaction. Our goal should be to maximize the quality of our library, not just to minimize its deterioration.

*Robert Landauer is editorial columnist of The Oregonian. He can be telephoned at 221-8157 or reached by mail at 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland 97201 or by electronic mail to robertlandauer@news.oregonian.com.*



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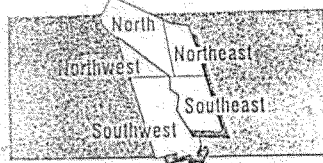
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# PORTLAND

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## County plans to put library levy on ballot

It will be for roughly \$18 million and will help restore hours, plus funds for computers, books and other materials.

By DAVID AUSTIN  
of The Oregonian staff

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners plans to put an \$18 million library levy on the November ballot, asking voters to restore slashed branch hours and increase money for books, computers and other materials.

"This looks like the right time to do it with the hours being so small," said board Chairwoman Beverly

Stein. "I think there's every indication that people are frayed supporters of the library. We've heard the complaints about not being open enough. In some ways, they're asking us to put this on the ballot."

The libraries' budget for 1997-98 is roughly \$23.1 million. If the levy passes, that budget would increase to \$26.1 million — the amount library officials expected before Measure 47, the property tax limitation, passed.

The proposed five-year levy needs to have at least a 60 percent voter turnout in Multnomah County in order to pass.

Stein and library director Ginnie Cooper said they anticipate high voter turnout for the Nov. 4 election

because of a variety of state measures that will be appearing, including the assisted-suicide and school bond issues.

Both said the \$18 million is only a rough figure. It's up to the board of commissioners to determine the exact amount of the levy.

If it passes, the library levy would:

- Restore an estimated \$4 million for hours at the downtown Central Library and the 14 branches throughout Multnomah County. After Measure 50, hours at the larger branches were cut from 69 hours per week to 38.5. An additional \$1 million would increase hours even more at all the branches.

- Increase the materials budget by \$2

million. Currently, that budget makes up roughly 12 percent of all library operating funds. The increase would boost the materials' budget to 15 percent, enabling the library system to purchase more books, computers and other materials used by the public.

- Send an estimated \$5.5 million back to the general fund, where it would be used for other county services.

- Allow the library to fill a number of librarian positions beyond the 1997-98 fiscal year.

Cooper said passage of the levy would cost property owners an additional 33 to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, depending on the amount decided on by the board.

"This does come at a crucial time

for us all," Cooper said. "All we want to do is give library goers what they want access."

The Multnomah County library system and others throughout the state find themselves in a difficult predicament. When voters passed Measure 47 last fall, libraries were stripped of the majority of their funding source.

Measure 50 — the property tax limitation rewrite — reduced some of the cuts to libraries, but not enough to stave off reduced hours.

Stein said she thinks the November levy will sit well with voters, in part because they passed a levy to support libraries in 1996 that got wiped out by the passage of Measure 47.

"Let's not forget that voters in

Multnomah County opposed Measure 47," Stein said. "They supported libraries before, and we're hoping they'll do it again."

Stein and Cooper sent a joint memo to the board Monday asking the commissioners to vote to approve the levy. The board will decide at its Aug. 21 meeting.

"I'm quite sure we'll have at least three votes and I wouldn't at all be surprised if we have all five," Stein said.

A special public hearing will be convened in the Central Library's conference room at 6 p.m. Aug. 18. The board also will hear public testimony at its regular meeting Aug. 21, the deadline to vote to put the levy on the ballot.



# County library officials opt to fill 37 positions now

The director says the public will forgive shorter hours before they'll forgive long lines, but some critics disagree

By DAVID AUSTIN  
of The Oregonian staff

After months of budget woes, Multnomah County Library officials recently got a glimpse of good news: More than three dozen job positions frozen by Measure 47 will be filled.

Ginnie Cooper, the library director, said the 37 openings come from retirements, positions that were held open since two property tax limitation measures passed, plus turnover since last year.

"These openings are critical to the library," Cooper said. "It will help us move closer to being a full-service library at every level."

The hirings come at a crucial time for the library system, which has been struggling with drastically reduced hours brought on by Measure 47 and its property tax limitation rewrite, Measure 50.

Cooper's move to fill the positions now also offers a window into her philosophy: Rather than increasing hours with a thinner staff, she is filling all possible openings to maintain a high level of service until voters decide on a levy that would boost funding and increase hours.

That levy may go to voters in November. On Tuesday, the library board of directors decided to recommend that the county commissioners put an operating levy on the November ballot, about six months ahead of previous plans. Their thinking is that the high voter turnout expected on the assisted-suicide

measure would give them the 50 percent of registered voters casting ballots needed to pass a levy.

The commissioners would set the amount if they decide to put the levy on the ballot.

The openings available include the equivalent of 17 full-time librarian positions, said Becky Cobb, coordinator for support services for the library.

Among those are four librarian positions as part of the newly created School Corps. Those librarians would work with public schools to promote usage and offer library resources. Also, three youth librarians and several reference librarians will be hired.

Currently, the library system has roughly the equivalent of 290 full-time employees, including librarians, library assistants, pages and

clerks. That's down from nearly 350 positions the year before.

Library officials decided on that number after the passage of the two property tax limitations. Most library funding comes from property taxes.

Although Measure 50 eased some of the cuts, the library system had to reduce its budget from \$26 million to \$23.1 million for the 1997-98 fiscal year. That forced reduced hours; the larger branches are open 38.5 hours per week, down from the projected 69 hours.

But Cooper said once officials finalized the budget, they found they had enough money to fill the openings. She expects to have the positions filled by the fall.

Cooper readily admits that the decision to fill the positions is unpopular with some.

Three library staffers, who didn't want their names used, contacted The Oregonian and complained that the money should be used to increase branch hours.

"I'm not trying to tear down the library because we have a good system," said one staffer. "But I have to question the move to fill positions when people can't even get in the door."

Joe Johns, a Southeast Portland businessman and the former chair of the Sellwood-Moreland Library Conservation Committee, said not adding hours defeats the purpose of having the libraries open to the public.

"They're doing things for their own convenience instead of for the convenience of the people," Johns said. "If they're going to hire 37 more people, then I'd suggest they think a little harder. There's nothing

wrong with the library right now except the hours that the branches are open. That's what needs to be fixed."

Cooper remains undaunted by the criticism. She says her priority is to maintain quality service.

"There are some counties in California that have decided to keep broad hours but their service has suffered," said Cooper, who also serves as national president of Public Library Association. "What the public will not forgive is if they walk through our doors and they can't do anything because of the long lines."

David Austin covers Multnomah County and social services for The Oregonian's City Life team. He can be reached by phone at 221-5383, by e-mail at [davidaustin@news.oregonian.com](mailto:davidaustin@news.oregonian.com) or by fax at 294-5012.

## Voters deserve full story on library ballot measure, whether court says so or not

**C**ourtney Wilton, the administrative officer for the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, isn't attacking libraries with his petition to the courts to change the county's Nov. 4 library-levy ballot title and explanation. He's asking for what the county commissioners should have provided in the first place:

A clear statement of what services will be paid for if voters approve the levy.

The county is asking for a five-year special levy, with about \$20 million to be collected the first year. Yet the budget for libraries would increase only by \$11.2 million that year if voters approved the levy. The difference, about \$5.5 million, is money the commissioners would redirect from their current subsidy of the libraries to other services.

Wilton's petition cites a \$7.5 million reduction in county support, but the commissioners made clear when trying to address Measure 47 revenue shortfalls that \$2 million of the money they gave to libraries for its current budget was a one-time-only allocation.

The non-library services are important. They include probation, parole and other justice services, health clinics and senior services. We have no quarrel with the need to fund such services. Our quarrel is and Wilton's

*"I'm not unhappy about the petition. Let a court decide what's right and put this question aside early."*

— Beverly Stein  
Multnomah County  
chairwoman

— is that voters deserve to see the full picture of what the levy measure will do.

This isn't the first time Wilton has questioned the wording of a Multnomah County library ballot measure. Last year, the tax watchdog pointed out that the text of a library-levy measure said there would be no increase in the current tax rate. In fact, there was a 4-cent increase. That's not much, considering the value returned, but it does suggest an undesirable casualness with figures when asking voters to support a cherished community institution.

Regarding the coming measure, the commissioners publically debated the amount of the levy request, including the decision to make it large enough to take back some of their library subsidy in order to support other programs. They were up front then. They should be equally candid in the description of the ballot measure.

The court should tell them so in answer to Wilton's petition. Whether it does, however, the commissioners should publish a Voters Pamphlet statement explaining not just what library services would be enhanced because of the levy — more open hours, more books and so forth — but also that the commissioners increased the levy request to free up some money to help pay for non-library services.

## BOTTOM LINES

*"It's obvious that prisoners should not have access to the Internet."*

— David Lillehaug, U.S. attorney, as a man in prison for molesting girls was convicted in Minneapolis of using the Internet to collect child pornography



# County must change library levy wording

■ It must tell voters that the levy provides money for services now paid from the general fund

By DAVID AUSTIN

of The Oregonian staff

A judge ordered Multnomah County officials to change the wording on a library ballot levy Thursday.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Ellen Rosenblum told county officials that they must include a sentence telling voters that the levy, if it passes, would provide money for library services that are now financed by general fund dollars.

Courtney Wilton, administrative officer for Multnomah County's Tax

Supervising and Conservation Commission, filed a challenge to the wording of the ballot earlier this month.

He asked the county to make clear to voters what services will be paid for if they approve the five-year levy in the November mail ballot election.

In the wake of two property tax limitations passed by voters in 1996 and earlier this year, county officials said they didn't give the library the money it needed to operate at full service.

Library officials and the county board decided in August to ask voters for \$106.5 million over five years to increase hours and provide more money to expand library services, including funds for extra books and the opening of three new branches.

Under the new levy, county officials plan to remove \$5.5 million in general fund dollars and use them to pay for other nonlibrary services.

Initially, the wording on the county ballot failed to mention how a portion of current library sources would be funded if the levy passed.

Rosenblum ordered the inclusion of the sentence: "If approved, the levy may provide partial replacement funding for library services currently financed by the County's general fund."

"The sentence was added and now the voters will get the full picture," Wilton said.

"This was never a case of me challenging the levy. I just felt like there needed to be a little more of a description about what the levy would cover."

County board Chairwoman Beverly Stein said she has no problem adding the sentence to the ballot.

She said Wilton and any other citizen had a right to challenge the wording.

"The courts were the place to sort that all out and it's done now," Stein said.

"My only worry was that we were creeping up to the deadline" to get the wording on the ballot. "Now we can get moving and get this out to the voters."

David Austin covers Multnomah County, social services and toxics for The Oregonian's City Life team. He can be reached by phone at 221-5383, by e-mail at [davidaustin@news.oregonian.com](mailto:davidaustin@news.oregonian.com) or by fax at 294-5023.