



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 12/31/09)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 7/13/2010
Agenda Item #: PD-1
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am

Agenda Title: **Informational Board Briefing on Library Funding Options**

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: July 13, 2010 **Amount of Time Needed:** 60 minutes
Department: Non-departmental **Division:** District 4
Contact(s): Corie Wiren
Phone: 503-988-5213 **Ext.** 26234 **I/O Address:** 503/6
Presenter(s): Vailey Oehlke, Becky Cobb, Mike Jaspin, Mark Garber, Dean Gisvold, Brian Wilson

General Information

- 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?**
Informational Board briefing on library funding options.
- 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.**

Although Multnomah County Library became a County department in 1990, discussions regarding stable funding for library services have been documented as far back as June 1983. Since the late 1970s, three or five-year local option levies have been used in conjunction with the County's general fund to operate the library system. Over the years, the percentage of the Library's funding from the general fund has declined and the percentage of library funding from the levy has increased correspondingly, with the result that the current levy is providing about 65% of the Library's total operating revenue. Library supporters and staff have long had concerns that this funding model is not sustainable and there have been several efforts over the years to identify and move forward alternate funding models.

The latest effort was the work of the citizen-led Library Funding Task Force, a group created by BCC resolution with the primary mission "to assess the feasibility of all funding options and recommend the best option for funding Multnomah County Libraries".

This group met sixteen times from May 2007 through June 2008, and their final report

recommended the formation of a library district through an amendment to the Multnomah County charter. On the basis of that recommendation, Commissioner McKeel asked the Charter Review Committee to study the possibility of a charter amendment that would allow for the formation of a library district. The CRC formed a Library Subcommittee to review this issue and, as a result of their study, the entire CRC decided to forward to the voters a library district amendment. If that measure passes in November, the Board of County Commissioners would then have the option of forwarding a library district measure and tax rate to the voters at a future election.

Potentially, library funding could be at a critical decision point as a result of the November election. The intent of this briefing is to provide the Board with information that will provide some context and information for that decision-making process.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

None.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Levy and district funding options.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

There have been multiple citizen led task forces exploring different funding options for the library system. The most recent is the Charter Review Commission, who devoted a subcommittee to the issue.

Required Signature

Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:



Date: 7/7/2010