

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

*****This form is a public record*****

MEETING DATE: July 31, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Multnomah County Library District

FOR: X

AGAINST:

NAME: Erin E. Cooper

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):

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IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:

1. Complete this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Presenters are called to testify in the order their form is received. The Presiding Officer may rearrange testimony or may ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
3. Public testimony is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Presiding Officer.
4. Written materials may be submitted to the Board Clerk for distribution to the Board and entry in the official record. Please provide 7 copies.
5. All meetings are audio and video recorded.
6. When your name is called, come forward & be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
7. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
8. The Presiding Officer has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so becomes a trespasser.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN INSTEAD OF ORAL COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Erin Cooper