



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

APPROVED: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA # R-1 DATE 2/25/16

MARINA BAKER, ASST BOARD CLERK

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 2/25/16

Agenda Item #: R.1

Est. Start Time: 9:30 am

Date Submitted: 2/17/16

Agenda Title: **Oregon Historical Society Levy Renewal – Explanatory Statement and Ballot Title Approval**

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: 2/25/2016 Time Needed: 20 minutes

Department: Non-D Division: Chair's Office

Contact(s): Anna Marie Allen

Phone: 503-988-9841 Ext. 89841 I/O Address: 501/6

Presenter

Name(s) &

Title(s): Kerry Tymchuk, Amy Ruiz, Nichole Maher

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval to certify and file the Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement relating to renewal of the 5 year tax levy to support the Oregon Historical Society.

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.

The current OHS Levy (Measure 26-118) was approved for a five year term which will expire in 2016. A Levy Oversight Committee was created to oversee the requirements of the Levy and make sure reporting was happening on time. All requirements of the Levy have been met. If approved by the Board, and approved by the voters, this renewal levy will extend the levy for 5 additional years.

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

The original levy raised property taxes .05 cents per every 1,000 dollars of property value. The renewal of the levy will not increase or decrease the current tax. There are no fiscal impacts on Multnomah County.

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

The County Code allows for the Board to directly refer to the voters any proposed property tax.

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

Many community members have expressed great support for the renewal to be approved. We anticipate having several community members present to testify in support of this ballot measure.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Nancy Bennett /s/

Date: 2/17/16

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.

MEASURE _____

CAPTION:

Five year levy: Oregon Historical Society Library, Museum, educational programs.

QUESTION:

Shall County renew 5-year history museum, library, educational programs levy; maintain \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed value, oversight, beginning 2016?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY: In 2010 voters approved a five-year local option levy of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed property value to support the Oregon Historical Society (OHS).

Renewal of local option levy will continue support to the OHS's museum, library, educational programs, and fund the following without increasing taxes:

- Educational programs
- free admission to school groups and Multnomah County residents
- Preservation of important Oregon treasures and artifacts
- Support four County historical societies: Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society

Levy continues rate of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed property value, and replaces the 2010 levy. A home assessed at \$200,000 pays \$10 a year.

An independent citizen oversight committee will review expenditures to verify that funds are used as approved by voters. Annual audits will be conducted and made public.

The levy will produce an estimated \$2.54 million for fiscal year 2016-2017; \$2.67 million for fiscal year 2017-2018; \$2.81 million for fiscal year 2018-2019; \$2.95 million for fiscal year 2019-2020; and \$3.1 million for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The estimated cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Established in 1898, the Oregon Historical Society collects, maintains, and preserves the vast majority of historical records and artifacts for Portland and the State of Oregon. About 60% of the library materials relate directly to Multnomah County history, and OHS acts as the Multnomah County Historical Society.

In addition to the Society's collection of over 85,000 artifacts, 5 million photographs, 25,000 maps, and more, the Oregon Historical Society maintains a museum and public research library in downtown Portland. Approximately 70,000 visitors use these facilities a year, including about 8,000 schoolchildren who visit the museum for guided tours, and access the library to research Oregon history.

This Multnomah County local option levy will keep the Oregon Historical Society's museum open seven days a week (47 hours a week) and the library open to the public 32 hours a week. It supports curation for the museum, and the continued collection and protection of Oregon's historical artifacts and documents. Levy funds will also protect the collection of Oregon history documents and artifacts, and public access to those, at four East Multnomah County Historical Societies—Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society—which together will receive \$150,000 of the levy each of the five years.

The levy supports continuation of educational programs including free admission for all school groups who visit the museum and library, and for all county residents - providing access to those otherwise unable to visit due to cost.

The cost of the levy renewal is \$.05 (five cents) per \$1,000 assessed property value, beginning 2016 through 2021. For example, the owner of a home assessed by the county at \$200,000 will continue to pay \$10 a year for this levy.

Accountability is a component of the levy. The Multnomah County Chair will continue to appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County's diverse communities – to review all levy expenditures and ensure dollars are spent as approved by voters. In addition, Multnomah County will continue to select an auditor for which OHS will pay to conduct annual audits of levy funds that will be made available to the public.

This levy will fund approximately one-third of operations at the Oregon Historical Society. Other funds come from admissions, grants, and private donations.

Submitted by:

Jenny Madkour

County Attorney

Multnomah County

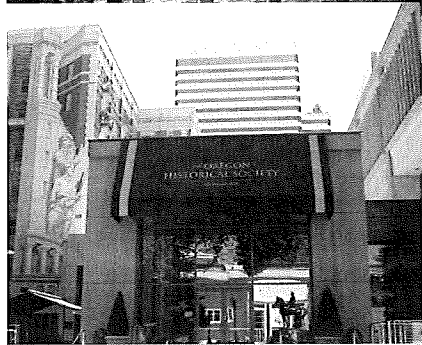
Oregon Historical Society

Levy Renewal

Your Multnomah County May 2016 ballot will include the Oregon Historical Society levy, providing continued funding for educational and cultural preservation programs, including:

- Free admission to school groups and Multnomah County residents.
- Support for four East County Historical Societies including the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society and Crown Point Country Historical Society.
- Preservation of cultural documents and artifacts.

If the levy renewal passes, there would be no increase in property tax rates from what they are today – estimated at \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the measure does not pass, the annual property taxes paid by the typical household with an assessed value of \$200,000 could decrease by approximately \$10.



Education and Preservation

Students from all over the state visit the Oregon Historical Society's museum and library each year to discover the people, places, and events that have shaped our state.

If the levy renewal passes, the Oregon Historical Society will continue offering free admission to school groups from all over Oregon. The levy supports free guided tours for students as well as the Oregon Historical Society's Traveling Trunk program, which brings hands-on history to classrooms.

How it Works

If the levy renewal passes, there would be no increase in property tax rates from what they are today – estimated at \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the measure does not pass, the annual property taxes paid by the typical household with an assessed value of \$200,000 could decrease by approximately \$10.

Independent Oversight

An independent citizen oversight committee ensures levy funds are used appropriately, reviews audits of levy spending, and reports annually to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

Oregon Historical Society by the numbers:

- 117** years old
- 70,000** annual visitors
- 8,000** schoolchildren visitors
- 85,000** artifacts
- 35,000** books
- 5,000,000** photographs
- 25,000** maps
- 12,000** linear feet of manuscripts
- 3,000** serials titles
- 5,000** vertical files
- 16,000** reels of microfilm
- 8,500,000** feet of film and tape
- 10,000** oral history tapes