

Proposed Levy for Countywide **LIBRARY SERVICES**



MEASURE 34-297 ON MAY 19 BALLOT

Since 1976, Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) has provided funding for public library operations, as well as central support and services that link city and community libraries together.

About 40% of WCCLS funding currently comes from an expiring local option property tax levy.

If passed, what would Measure 34-297 do?

If passed, the levy would maintain current levels of countywide library service for another five years, which would include funding for the following:

- Open hours for libraries that serve all county residents, including libraries in Aloha, Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope.
- Children's reading events that average about 285,000 participants each year, including annual summer reading programs for youth, literacy programs for preschoolers.
- Purchase of books, e-books and other materials that are available to all library users. If passed, the levy would fund the continued purchase of additional copies of in-demand books in order to reduce wait times. Levy funding would also provide online access that allows users to reserve books that can be picked up at any library.

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- Provide information, resources and instruction to assist those looking for jobs or career development. Jobseekers could continue to use library computers and internet access to apply for jobs, and access learning tools for career development.
- Central sorting and book delivery between 16 libraries seven days a week, allowing all county residents to access the shared collection of 1.6 million books and other materials; shared library inventory management and online request system; the wccls.org website; shared library events calendar; and book deliveries to county residents who are homebound or living in care facilities.

If passed, how would the levy affect a homeowner’s taxes?

- The proposed levy would renew a five-year levy that will expire in June 2021 at the same fixed rate of \$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- The levy would, if approved, also provide about 40% of WCCLS funding and would run from July 2021 through June 2026.
- In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value of \$300,000 (not market value) would pay \$66 per year.

What would happen if the levy does not pass?

Reductions in service levels would likely occur, including reductions in hours, book purchases and events, as well as reductions in countywide services such as the countywide online catalog and book delivery. Homeowners would not be assessed the tax of \$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

More information?

Visit the WCCLS website at www.wccls.org/levy for more information.



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