

Washington County Measure 34-235

Library Replacement Levy Explanatory Statement

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) has provided funding for public library operations for 39 years. Additionally, its central support and outreach programs link together city and community libraries.

This measure replaces a five-year levy that will expire in June 2016. The expiring levy provides 1/3 of WCCLS funding. This replacement levy would run from July 2016 through June 2021.

What would Measure 34-235 do?

Public library operations:

- Maintain support for libraries and branches that serve all county residents: Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope.
- Maintain open hours at all libraries, increase hours at some libraries.
- Provide basic operational support for a new public library in Aloha and expanding libraries in Bethany, Cornelius and Hillsboro.

Reading programs for children:

- Support children's reading programs that average over 280,000 child visits each year. This includes annual summer reading programs and literacy programs for preschoolers so more children enter school ready to read.
- Enhance summer reading activities designed to sustain reading retention between school years.
- Increase reading and learning programs for students, including online homework and tutoring services designed to improve school success for all children in the County.
- Increase literacy training in English and Spanish to develop reading skills for children.

Book purchases:

- Expand purchase of books, e-books and other materials that would be available to all users of libraries in Washington County.

Resources for job-seekers:

- Continue library services that provide information, resources and instruction to assist those seeking jobs.

- One out of five WCCLS computer users say library technology supports their employment or job searches.

Central support and outreach services that link libraries together:

- Maintain daily deliveries between libraries to fill patron requests for books and other materials.
- Maintain the WCCLS website and shared library catalog used by member libraries.
- Provide outreach services to special populations such as mail delivery of books to homebound residents.
- Support services and technologies designed to increase efficiencies in service delivery across the system.

How would this replacement levy affect a homeowner's taxes?

- The levy rate would be 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢ over the current rate.
- If approved, this would be the first rate increase since 2006.
- In 2016, owners of a home with an average assessed value of \$255,408 (not market value) would pay about \$56, or \$14 more than paid in 2015.

What happens if the levy does not pass?

Because the expiring levy provides 1/3 of WCCLS funding, reductions in service levels would likely occur based on local library priorities:

- Reductions in hours, book purchases and programs,
- Reductions in central support and outreach programs,
- Operational funding would not be available for new or expanding libraries.

More information?

Visit the WCCLS website at www.wccls.org/levy