
Levy for Countywide LIBRARY SERVICES



MEASURE 34-235

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

This levy replaces a 5-year levy expiring June 2016, which provides 1/3 of WCCLS funding.

WHAT WOULD MEASURE 34-235 DO?

Public library operations:

- Maintain 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 libraries, increase hours at some.
- Add basic support for new Aloha library; expanded libraries in Bethany, Cornelius and Hillsboro.

Reading programs for children:

- Support reading programs averaging over 280,000 child visits annually, such as literacy programs for preschoolers so more enter school ready to read.
- Enhance summer reading activities designed to sustain reading retention.
- Increase programs for students including online homework and tutoring services designed to improve children's school success.
- Increase literacy training in English and Spanish to develop reading skills for children.

Book purchases:

- Expand purchase of books, e-books and materials available to all WCCLS libraries.

Resources for job-seekers:

- 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 of materials between libraries to fill patron requests.
- Maintain WCCLS website, shared library catalog, public Internet and WiFi.
- Provide outreach to special populations such as mail delivery to homebound residents.

HOW WOULD MEASURE 34-235 AFFECT A HOMEOWNER'S TAXES?

- The levy would run from July 2016 through June 2021.
- The rate would be 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢ over current rate.
- If approved, would be 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 services would likely occur based on local library priorities:

- Reductions in hours, book purchases and programs,
- Reductions in central support and outreach programs,
- No additional funding available for new or expanded libraries.

MORE INFORMATION & STATISTICS?

- Visit WCCLS at www.wccls.org/levy
- Ask at your local library



Washington County
Cooperative Library Services