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

This material reviewed by Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division.
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