

# Notice of Measure Election County

26-211

**SEL 801**

rev 01/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

<b>Notice</b>		
<b>Date of Notice</b> July 22, 2020	<b>Name of County or Counties</b> Multnomah County	<b>Date of Election</b> November 3, 2020

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.  
Bonds to Expand, Renovate, Construct Library Branches, Facilities; Increase Safety

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.  
Shall County expand, modernize, rebuild, acquire land for library facilities; issue \$387,000,000 in general obligation bonds, with oversight, audits? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.  
If approved, this measure would authorize up to \$387,000,000 of general obligation bonds to finance capital costs to increase the size and update library facilities across the County. Specifically, the bonds are intended to:  
Enlarge and modernize eight county libraries, some in each part of the county.  
Build a flagship library in East County, similar in capacity to downtown's Central Library.  
Expand, renovate, or construct seven branch libraries, including Albina, Belmont, Holgate, Midland, North Portland, Northwest, and St. Johns.  
Add gigabit speed internet to all libraries.  
Create a central materials handling and distribution center to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness.  
Pay for furnishings, equipment, site improvements, land acquisition, and bond issuance costs.  
Bonds would mature not more than nine years from issuance and may be issued in multiple series. The County estimates the average cost to be \$0.61 per \$1,000 of assessed value over the term of the bond. Actual rate may vary. An independent bond oversight committee and annual audits will help ensure funds are used as intended.

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.  
If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:  
→ any measure referred by the county governing body; or  
→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.      Explanatory Statement Attached?     Yes     No

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

<b>Name</b> Eric Arellano	<b>Title</b> Chief Financial Officer
<b>Mailing Address</b> 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 531, Portland, OR 97214	<b>Contact Phone</b> (503) 988-6718

**By signing this document:**  
→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and  
→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature:  Date Signed: 7/21/20

RECEIVED  
 JUL 22 2020  
 CLERK OF COUNTY  
 MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Multnomah County libraries are the fourth busiest in the nation based on circulation and 102nd in amount of total library square footage. All 19 Multnomah County library branches, including the Central location, could fit inside the single, downtown Seattle library with room to spare. Additionally, that limited space is not equitably distributed: East Portland and East County are home to nearly 40% of the county's population, and have 20% of library location space.

Multnomah County Library's mission is "Empowering our community to learn and create." If approved, the bonds would fund capital costs to increase the size and update library facilities across the County, to help further the Library's mission throughout the community, for all those who seek to participate in its programs.

While Multnomah County libraries are funded through a dedicated library district, those funds cover only staffing, maintenance and operations of the Library, not facility updates, construction or modernization.

Most county library buildings were built in the last century for books and not much else. Now, libraries provide access to information electronically, as well as hands-on training and learning, in-person programs and technology. Examples of space constraints experienced by libraries include:

- Library programs cannot accommodate all those who want to attend. For example, librarians turn away families for Storytime and other reading programs due to lack of space.
- There are ten quiet study rooms across the entire library system, in a county of over 800,000 residents. And these are available at three libraries only.
- Libraries like Belmont have limited space to sit and read or for librarians to work with users.
- At some of the busiest libraries, approximately 70% of requests for public meeting rooms are declined because they are overbooked.
- Some locations cannot accommodate usage consistent with physical distancing guidelines.

If approved, the Library bond would authorize the County to issue up to \$387 million in general obligation bonds to update, renovate, construct, and refresh libraries across the county. More space would be provided for Library programs, and public meetings: and to sit, read, study, work and learn. Access to computers, digital devices and high-speed internet would be increased in every branch. More library space would be made available for East Portland and East Multnomah County.

Specifically, if approved, the bonds would

1. Enlarge and modernize eight County libraries, some in each part of the county; including Albina, Belmont, Holgate, Midland, North Portland, Northwest, and St. Johns;
2. Build a 'flagship' library in East County similar in capacity to Central Library in downtown Portland;
3. Add gigabit speed internet to all library facilities;
4. Create a central materials handling and distribution center to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness; and
5. Pay for furnishings, equipment, site improvements, land acquisition, and bond issuance costs.

If approved, the 9-year \$387 million bond is estimated to cost approximately \$0.61 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Actual rates may vary. An independent bond oversight committee, and annual audits, will help ensure funds are used as intended.