

Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee

**Review of levy documents,
roles and responsibilities**

The ballot

Voters approved Measure 26-118 in
November of 2010

Voters renewed the levy with Measure
26-174 in May of 2016

Accountability in the levy

“Accountability is a component of the levy. The Multnomah County Chair will continue to appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County’s diverse communities – to review all levy expenditures and ensure that dollars are spent as approved by voters, and shall advise and support OHS in ensuring that its board, partnerships, staff, exhibits and programs proactively represent Multnomah County’s diverse cultures.”

So, what does that mean?

Your charge is to ensure that OHS is doing what they promised voters and taxpayers they would do. Those “promises” are laid out in the ballot language and addressed directly in the OHS annual report template.

Additional parameters for the LOC:

Resolution 2011-048

officially created the Oregon Historical Society Levy Oversight Committee (LOC)

Resolution No. 2016-010

put the measure on the ballot and renewed agreements.

Financial Agreement

between Multnomah County and the Oregon Historical Society:

- Lays out how and when money will flow
- Further explains the charge of the LOC and how the committee will function.
- Some aspects being reviewed.

Financial Agreement

- How money will flow to OHS and the East County organizations
- The role of the LOC
- Logistics – how often the LOC meets, how it will report back and how the public will have access to information
- What OHS will do to ensure LOC can perform its function
- Accountability measures and dispute resolution process

How the money will flow from Multnomah County to OHS:

OHS will receive levy funds in two allocations per year for the life of the levy. Payment schedule may be revised now that OHS is on stronger footing than when the first levy was passed.

This method allows for the county to accurately account for compression following certification of the tax roll.

What about the East County organizations?

- ECHO
- Gresham Historical Society
- Troutdale Historical Society
- Crown Point Country Historical Society

OHS will distribute funds to these organizations in two allocations per year for the life of the levy, in the amount of \$20,000.

1st allocation: no later than July 31

2nd allocation: no later than January 31

These organizations have to report to the LOC once annually using a template developed by the first LOC.

OHS has the ability to withhold funds should the organizations fail to report to the LOC.

About the role of the LOC:

“OHS understands that the LOC role is to provide oversight of the expenditure of levy funds on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and to identify for OHS and the community any perceived or persistent practices that are inconsistent with the voter approved measure.” -- Financial Agreement

The LOC will generally:

- Meet at least semi-annually (twice a year)
- Provide an annual briefing to the Board of County Commissioners regarding OHS compliance with promises made in the ballot language
- Post minutes from LOC meetings to the Board Clerk's website (staff to assist)

OHS will provide what you need to do your job:

“OHS agrees to fully cooperate with the LOC and promptly provide any and all relevant documents, materials and other information as required by the LOC to fulfill its reporting function.”

“OHS agrees to fully cooperate with respect to all documents, materials and other information deemed necessary by the auditors to complete work in a timely fashion.”

And what if they don't?

OHS has agreed to pay for a **Performance Audit** *in addition to* the fiscal audit should the LOC and the Multnomah County Chair agree that they are not in compliance with the levy provisions and the financial agreement.

This step would only take place after the dispute resolution process has been exhausted.

What is the dispute resolution process?

Bring dispute to Co-Chairs and to the Executive Director of OHS for resolution.

If they are unable to agree, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Multnomah County Chair for final resolution.

The Co-Chairs may refer the matter to mediation or alternative dispute resolution if they see fit.

2010 vs 2016 Measure Language

The Multnomah County Chair will appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County’s diverse communities - to review all levy expenditures and ensure dollars are spent as promised.

The Multnomah County Chair will **continue to** appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County’s diverse communities - to review all levy expenditures and ensure dollars are spent as **approved by voters, and shall advise and support OHS in ensuring that its board, partnerships, staff, exhibits and programs proactivity represent Multnomah County’s diverse cultures.**

2010 vs 2016 Measure Language

will keep the Oregon History Museum open 40 hours a week	will keep the Oregon History Museum open seven days (47 hours a week)
will fund nearly one-half of operations at OHS facilities.	This levy will fund nearly one-third of operations at OHS facilities
BOC will consider termination or reduction of the levy if the State of Oregon restores funding to OHS.	<i>Language is absent in 2016 measure</i>