

## NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Multnomah County Commissioners have referred the following measure to the voters of the County at the Tuesday, May 15, 2012, Primary Election. Any registered voter dissatisfied with the ballot title or explanatory statement may file a petition with the Multnomah County Circuit Court for review on or before 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 2, 2012. Any person filing a challenge must also file a copy of the challenge with the Director of Elections, 1040 SE Morrison St., Portland, by the end of the next business day after the petition is filed with the Circuit Court.

**Caption:** Local library funding: continues local option levy at current rate

**Question:** Shall county maintain open libraries, programs, services; renew levy of \$0.89 per \$1,000 assessed value for three years beginning 2012?\_This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary:** Multnomah County libraries serve every neighborhood across the county with 18 local branches and Central Library. Two thirds of library funding comes from a voter-approved levy. Renewal of the current levy will keep libraries open and maintain a majority of hours and services. If not renewed, most libraries will close, others will be open fewer hours, and library services will be greatly reduced.

Renewing the library levy will:

- Continue programs such as: story hours for babies and toddlers, after-school homework help for school students; summer reading, programs for teens and more;

- Help teachers and students use library resources; provide homework helpers to assist children with school work.

- Update books and materials; maintain free access to information;

- Continue book delivery to homebound senior citizens and retirement home residents.

- Fund hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries.

This levy does not raise property taxes. It continues the same rate of the previous library levy approved by voters. Estimated cost for the typical household will remain about \$13 per month for three years.

The levy raises approximately \$32.6 million in 2012-13; \$34.5 million in 2013-14; \$36.5 million in 2014-15. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Multnomah County Library serves the community through the Central Library and these 18 branches:**

Albina Library	Kenton Library
Belmont Library	Midland Library
Capitol Hill Library	North Portland Library
Fairview/Columbia Library	Northwest Library
Gregory Heights Library	Rockwood Library
Gresham Library	Sellwood-Moreland Library
Hillsdale Library	St. Johns Library
Holgate Library	Troutdale Library
Hollywood Library	Woodstock Library

### **Facts about the local libraries:**

- Each day over 35,000 people visit the 19 libraries, in-person and online.
- An average of 32.8 books are checked out every year for every man, woman, and child in the county.
- Library staff answers over 800,000 reference questions a year.
- 98,000 kids participated in the Library's Summer Reading program in 2011, including over half of the county's elementary school children.
- Library outreach programs to schools make 120,000 contacts with students and teachers during the school year.
- Nearly 300,000 people attend library programs and events for children and teens each year.
- The library provides 24/7 online access to information, learning resources and the library catalog.

### **RESULT OF A 'YES' VOTE ON Measure 26-125**

Measure 26-125 renews the library levy at the current rate: **That means it will not increase taxes currently being paid for libraries by Multnomah County residents.** The levy will provide the majority of funds for libraries including hours of service, programs and reading materials.

### **Library Services Include:**

- Programs for young and school-aged children – story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help for students, summer reading and more;
- All branches and Central Library open at least six days a week;
- Assistance to senior citizens including computer classes and book delivery for those who are homebound;

- Programs and resources for jobseekers, small business owners, and English language learners;
- New books, magazines and other library materials.

## **RESULT OF A 'NO' VOTE**

The library receives over 60% of its funding from the current voter-approved levy. If the library levy is not renewed, library services – including those for senior citizens, youth and children - will be greatly reduced: Most libraries will close, others will be open fewer hours and fewer books will be purchased.

### **Cost**

The library levy continues the current property tax of \$.89 per \$1,000 assessed property value. It is not a tax increase. According to the County Department of Assessment and Taxation, the typical single family home would continue to pay about \$13.24 a month for this library levy.

Submitted by:

Board of County Commissioners

Multnomah County

Tim Scott, Director of Elections  
Multnomah County