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Election • November 2nd



## **Measure 34-180: Renewal of Local Option Levy for Countywide Library Services**

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) has provided funding for public library operations, central support and outreach programs linking together city and community libraries for 34 years.

Measure 34-180 would continue support for countywide library services. A five-year levy is proposed to replace the four-year levy expiring in June 2011. The 17¢ rate per \$1,000 of assessed value would remain unchanged. Owners of a home with average assessed value of \$215,089 (not market value) would pay about \$37 in 2011-2012. The expiring levy provides approximately 1/3 of funding for WCCLS.

### **What would the levy renewal do?**

Approximately 80% of funds would be distributed to support public library operations and services in twelve communities including Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope. Libraries have responded to increased use from residents over the last few years. Checkouts topped 11 million in 2009-2010 and over 4 million people visited WCCLS libraries (over 7.7 visits per capita).

Funds would support children's reading and literacy programs designed to build preschooler's reading readiness and maintain reading skills between school years. Over 170,000 people participate in library reading programs for children each year, including over 25,000 children who participate in summer reading program activities.

Funds would purchase books and materials available to residents through all libraries. Funds would continue library services that provide information, resources, and instruction to assist residents who are looking for jobs.

Funds would support central and outreach services that link libraries together, such as maintaining daily book deliveries among libraries to fill patron requests, maintaining the WCCLS website and shared catalog, and providing outreach to special populations such as mail delivery to homebound residents, and early literacy training for parents and child care providers.

**What happens if the renewal is not approved?**

The expiring levy provides approximately 1/3 of WCCLS funding. Without levy funding, reductions in hours, book purchases and services would be determined by member libraries based on local service priorities.

**For more information** (including sources of statistics cited) visit [www.wccls.org/levy](http://www.wccls.org/levy) or call (503) 846-3222.

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