

**Washington County  
Measure 34-235**

**Library Replacement Levy  
Ballot Title**

**Caption:**

Replacement Local Option Levy to Support Countywide Library Services

**Question:**

Shall Washington County support library services countywide by levying 22¢ per \$1,000 assessed value for five years, beginning in 2016? This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than three percent.

**Summary:**

This measure replaces a levy that expires in June 2016. It supports member libraries of Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) in Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope; adds Aloha Library. It funds central support and outreach services linking libraries together. Expiring levy provides 1/3 of total WCCLS funding.

Replacement levy supports libraries by:

- Maintaining open hours, avoiding cuts in service;
- Adding hours at some libraries;
- Supporting children's programs including summer reading and literacy programs for preschoolers;
- Improving online homework help and learning supports for students;
- Purchasing books, e-books and other materials;
- Providing basic operational support for new or expanding libraries;
- Maintaining central support and outreach services.

Levy supports libraries for five years at a fixed rate of 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢. If approved, this would be the first rate increase since 2006.

In 2016, typical homeowners with an assessed value (not market value) of \$255,408 would pay about \$56, which is \$14 more than in 2015.

Estimated levy amount for each year:

\$12,739,000 in 2016-17

\$13,249,000 in 2017-18

\$13,812,000 in 2018-19

\$14,399,000 in 2019-20

\$15,011,000 in 2020-21

Washington County  
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Library Replacement Levy  
Explanatory Statement

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) has provided funding for public library operations for 39 years. Additionally, its central support and outreach programs link together city and community libraries.

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This measure replaces a five-year levy that will expire in June 2016. The expiring levy provides 1/3 of WCCLS funding. This replacement levy would run from July 2016 through June 2021.

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What would Measure 34-235 do?

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**Public library operations:**

- Maintain support for 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 all libraries, increase hours at some libraries.
- Provide basic operational support for a new public library in Aloha and expanding libraries in Bethany, Cornelius and Hillsboro.

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**Reading programs for children:**

- Support children's reading programs that average over 280,000 child visits each year. This includes annual summer reading programs and literacy programs for preschoolers so more children enter school ready to read.
- Enhance summer reading activities designed to sustain reading retention between school years.
- Increase reading and learning programs for students, including online homework and tutoring services designed to improve school success for all children in the County.
- Increase literacy training in English and Spanish to develop reading skills for children.

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**Book purchases:**

- Expand purchase of books, e-books and other materials that would be available to all users of libraries in Washington County.

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**Resources for job-seekers:**

- Continue library services that provide information, resources and instruction to assist those seeking jobs.

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- One out of five WCCLS computer users say library technology supports their employment or job searches.

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**Central support and outreach services that link libraries together:**

- Maintain daily deliveries between libraries to fill patron requests for books and other materials.
- Maintain the WCCLS website and shared library catalog used by member libraries.
- Provide outreach services to special populations such as mail delivery of books to homebound residents.
- Support services and technologies designed to increase efficiencies in service delivery across the system.

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**How would this replacement levy affect a homeowner's taxes?**

- The levy rate would be 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢ over the current rate.
- If approved, this would be the 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.

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**What happens if the levy does not pass?**

Because the expiring levy provides 1/3 of WCCLS funding, reductions in service levels would likely occur based on local library priorities:

- Reductions in hours, book purchases and programs,
- Reductions in central support and outreach programs,
- Operational funding would not be available for new or expanding libraries.

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**More information?**

Visit the WCCLS website at [www.wccls.org/levy](http://www.wccls.org/levy)

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