

**Washington County  
Measure 34-297**

**Library Levy Renewal  
Ballot Title**

**Caption:**

Renewal of 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 2021? This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary:**

Measure renews a levy that expires in June 2021. Renewal supports member libraries of Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) in Aloha, Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope. It funds central support and services that link libraries together. The expiring levy provides 40% of total WCCLS funding.

Renewal of the levy helps libraries by:

- Maintaining open hours at all libraries, avoiding cuts in service;
- Funding children’s reading events, including summer reading and literacy programs for preschoolers;
- Purchasing books and materials that all library users have access to countywide;
- Providing reading and learning support, including online access and homework help designed to improve school success for all students in the county;
- Maintaining central support and services that link libraries together.

The renewed five-year levy continues library services at a fixed rate of 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is unchanged from the current rate.

In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value (not market value) of \$300,000 would pay \$66.

Estimated levy amount for each year:

\$16,305,000 in 2021-22

\$16,998,000 in 2022-23

\$17,721,000 in 2023-24

\$18,474,000 in 2024-25

\$19,259,000 in 2025-26

## **Washington County Measure 34-297**

### **Library Levy Renewal Explanatory Statement**

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) is the primary source of funding for public library operations countywide. Additionally, its central support and services link city and community libraries together into one system, creating broad access to books and other library materials for all county residents.

This measure would renew a five-year levy that will expire in June 2021. The expiring levy provides 40% of WCCLS funding at a fixed rate of 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. The renewed levy would use the same fixed rate as the expiring levy. The renewed levy would run from July 2021 through June 2026.

#### **What would Measure 34-297 do?**

##### **Public library operations:**

- Maintain support for libraries that serve all county residents, including libraries in Aloha, Banks, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Garden Home, Hillsboro, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and West Slope.
- Help maintain open hours at all libraries.

##### **Reading programs for children:**

- Support children's reading events that average about 285,000 participants each year. This includes annual summer reading programs and literacy programs for preschoolers so more children enter school ready to read.
- Provide reading and learning programs for students, including online homework and tutoring services designed to improve school success for all children in Washington County.

##### **Book purchases:**

- Continue to purchase books, e-books and other materials that are available to all library users.
- Continue to purchase additional copies of in-demand books in order to keep wait times down.
- Continue to support online access that allows users to reserve books that can be picked up at any library.

##### **Resources for job-seekers:**

- Continue to provide information, resources and instruction to assist those looking for jobs or career development.

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

- Maintain central sorting of materials and daily deliveries of books and other materials between libraries.
- Maintain the WCCLS website, shared library catalog and library events calendar.
- Provide mail delivery of books to residents who are homebound or living in care facilities.

**How would a renewed levy affect a homeowner's taxes?**

- The renewed five-year levy would continue funding for library services at a fixed rate of 22¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, which would be unchanged from the current rate.
- In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value of \$300,000 (not market value) would pay \$66.

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

Because the expiring levy provides 40% of WCCLS funding, reductions in service levels would likely occur based on local library priorities, including:

- Reductions in hours, book purchases and events; and
- Reductions in central support such as the countywide online catalog, book delivery and other services.

**More information?**

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