



COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 5136

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CITY ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE LEGAL ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EUGENE A MEASURE AUTHORIZING A FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR THE FUNDING OF LIBRARY OPERATIONS.

PASSED: 8:0

REJECTED:

OPPOSED:

ABSENT:

CONSIDERED: July 13, 2015



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The City Council of the City of Eugene finds as follows:

- A. Despite reduced budgets in recent years, the Eugene Public Library is heavily used by our community. In FY14, the Library served over 3,000 visitors daily and processed nearly three million check-outs. The Library provided more than 1,800 programs, ranging from storytimes to classes to entertainment with approximately 55,000 community members of all ages attending these free events. Monthly, the Library's three locations provided over 75,000 wireless sessions and 18,000 Internet computer user sessions.
- B. The City's Library Services funded by General Fund and donation funds. The FY16 \$10.6 million budget pays for the following existing services:
 - a. Downtown Library services 61 hours across seven days a week
 - b. Bethel and Sheldon Branch services 26 hours over five days a week.
 - c. Publically available technology to use at the Library.
 - d. Ability to use your own technology to access library services online 24 hours per day, 7 days each week.
 - e. Purchase of a limited amount of new materials.
 - f. Approximately 1,200 free public programs offered at the Library annually, for all ages.
 - g. Some off-site programs, all of which serve those unable to come into the Library, such as storytimes to low-income children at daycares and large print book delivery to homebound seniors.
- C. Eugene Public Library is nationally recognized for excellence in cost-effective delivery of services. In its 2014 rankings, Library Journal named Eugene Public Library a "Star Library" for the fifth time. The designation means Eugene Public Library ranks among the top three percent of public libraries nationwide for excellence in cost-effective delivery of key services. The Library Journal study, the "Index of Public Library Service 2014," examined 7,586 public libraries. Only 258 libraries, including Eugene Public Library, received a Star Library designation. Eugene Public Library's delivery of services per capita was evaluated against public libraries with comparable budgets.
- D. In October 2014, the Library engaged the community in a visioning process about the "Eugene Public Library of the Future". Participants, representing diverse demographics and viewpoints within the community, reached a consensus that "Eugene Public Library has been and will continue to be a center of our community, a community that values

learning and opportunity for all of its residents.” The resulting report set out a vision for the future 2024 Library that included themes such as technology, literacy, off-site delivery of Library programs, creativity and creative spaces, growth in services, facilities growth and funding.

- E.** In April 2015, the Library contracted for a survey to explore the community’s opinions and priorities regarding Library services and to learn the probable level of support for a five-year local option levy as a supplement to the General Fund. The survey results confirmed community support for a Library Local Option Levy and reaffirmed the priorities heard repeatedly from council, Library users and supporters, and from the Library of the Future visioning process.
- F.** Increased access to existing Library services by adding back open hours was rated by community members as the most critical enhancement for levy funding. Also highly rated was a restoration of the Library’s materials budget to former levels, which would reduce “wait times” for the most popular materials. Library services targeted to specific underserved groups were also identified as a high priority for investment. These include early literacy skill development for preschoolers and their families, an expansion of programs and services for teens, and an investment in new technologies such as makerspace.
- G.** In response to the community feedback about service level enhancements, the City Council developed a proposal for library levy funding. The proposal was shaped by what residents identified as highest priorities for themselves and the community as a whole. The levy proposal would pay for service enhancements, not existing Library services. Existing Library services would continue to be funded by the General Fund and donation funds.
- H.** Based on community input, the levy services will focus on expanding hours and access for everyone and ensuring equity in provision of library services. Specifically, the levy will fund the following service enhancements:

 - a. Additional hours and access. This would include adding 22 hours each week at Bethel Branch, to be open 48 hours over six days a week; adding 22 hours each week at Sheldon Branch, to be open 48 hours over six days a week; and restoring 3 hours on Sunday mornings each week at the Downtown Library, to be open 64 hours over seven days a week.
 - b. Increase by 33% on-site free programming for all ages, with particular focus on teens; expanded “makerspace” to provide community members with access to and training on tools and equipment they might not be able to afford individually; and increased off-site delivery of programs, including focused expansion of the early literacy outreach and other volunteer programs.
 - c. More technology and materials, including restoring \$300,000 per year to bring the budget for books and other resources back to FY09 levels, to ensure a shorter “wait time” for the most popular items; and technology (tablets and/or laptops) to lend for public use on-site at both Branch Libraries.

- I. On July 13, 2015, the City Council agreed that a five-year Local Option Levy of \$2,700,000 per year should be placed on the November 3, 2015 ballot. The typical Eugene taxpayer is estimated to pay an average of \$36 per year over the five-year period of the levy.
- J. In order to ensure accountability in the use of levy funds, several components will be included in the levy implementation:
- a. Levy funds will be budgeted and accounted for in separate funds that are easily identifiable by members of the public, in accordance with state law.
 - b. Staff will prepare an annual summary of levy spending and performance measures. The report will clearly lay out the Library's budget and the split between the General Fund and Levy Funds. The Library Advisory Board will annually review the report to determine whether spending complied with the intention of the ballot measure.
 - c. The City Manager will provide an annual memorandum to the City Council about library levy spending and key performance measures for the services. The memorandum will include the staff report and any comments from the Library Advisory Board after their review.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the above findings,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. A city election is called for the purpose of referring to the legal electors of the City of Eugene a measure authorizing a five-year Library Local Option Levy in the amount of \$2,700,000 per year, beginning July 1, 2016, to fund enhanced library services.

Section 2. The City Council orders this city election to be held in the City of Eugene, Oregon, concurrently with the election on November 3, 2015, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 254 of the Oregon Revised Statutes, and the ballots shall be counted and tabulated and the results certified as provided by law.

Section 3. The City Recorder is directed to give not less than ten days' notice of the city election by publication of one notice in the Register Guard, a newspaper published in the City and of general circulation within the City.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the 13th day of July, 2015.

Beck Forrest

City Recorder