

ATTACHMENT B

APPENDIX B: Library Local Option Levy History (from November 24, 2014 AIS)

In the past fifteen years, Eugene has thoughtfully and strategically invested in excellence in library services, to the benefit of our entire community. Inspired by the long-range community vision of library services and facilities crafted by the Mayor's Library Improvement Committee in 1998, City Council authorized a new main library for Eugene. Funding sources were Urban Renewal funds, sale of excess City property (primarily the old main library), and a \$5 million capital campaign by the Eugene Public Library Foundation. The new Downtown Library has been serving the community since December 26, 2002.

The Mayor's Library Improvement Committee also recommended the need to pursue increased operating funds for the new main library, as well as establishing branch libraries in the Bethel and Sheldon neighborhoods. In 1998, the first of three local option levies was approved by Eugene voters to supplement General Fund support of library services:

- FY99-03 levy, \$0.28/\$1000 of assessed value, 64% approval. Funded Sunday hours at the main library, opened two neighborhood branches, supported increased staffing needed for larger main building.
- FY04-07 levy, \$0.50/\$1000 of assessed value, 56% approval. Continued services and expanded access (increased open hours) at all three locations. This second levy provided 51% of the library's operating budget.
- FY08-11 levy, \$0.23/\$1000 of assessed value, 52% approval. This was intended as a transition to full funding by the General Fund. Since FY12, library services have been fully funded by the General Fund, requiring reductions in services.

Reductions to the Downtown and Branch Libraries since FY10 have totaled approximately \$2 million annually, including elimination of 20 FTE and reduction of ongoing funding to maintain the Library's collections. Of significant impact to citizens were the FY13 reduction of Bethel Branch Library hours by more than 50% and reduction of Sheldon Branch Library hours by more than 50%. FY15, additional reductions were closure of the Downtown Library on Sunday mornings and shifting support for the Sheldon Branch Library to one-time funding for FY15.