

DRAFT 1/2/2024 Letter addressed to Library Boards to sign petition to BCC

Re: Recent Decision by the BCC regarding possibly changing the Library District from just a Service District to one permitting capital expenditures

We ask your Board, collectively, or especially those members who represent the unincorporated residents within your Service Area to consider signing the following petition to the County Commissioners, sitting as the Library District Board. If the majority of your library board is in favor, please send us a note with the date of the vote approving the motion in support of the petition. If only individual members would like to sign the petition, they may contact us at: [email]

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The undersigned [members of] individual library advisory boards in the Clackamas County Library District, ask the District Library Board to reconsider its decision on November 29, 2023, to consult only cities on the possible transformation of the Library District from a service district, as originally formed, into one permitting capital expenditures. That question should be put to the voters.

Referring that critical question to just city politicians immediately disenfranchises over 44% of the District's population, who provide over 45% of the District's revenue. Those 187,400+ residents do not and cannot vote for city politicians and have no leverage over their decisions. Your referral also ignores the outsized importance of the money those unincorporated residents contribute to City libraries: at 8 of the 13 libraries, **more than half** of the distributed District tax revenue comes from the unincorporated residents. Again, the use of that money is controlled only by city politicians and administrators, with no voter leverage available to the unincorporated contributors.

The Board should be asking ALL the taxpayers in the County whether any money collected from the Library District could now be used for capital purposes. County Counsel has confirmed to the Board that the District at its formation was a service district that could NOT use collected funds for capital purposes. You should not reconfigure the District in this fundamental way by just asking cities.

Put the question to the voters: Do voters want to allow cities to funnel District Revenue to improve, renovate or build city owned buildings, at the expense of the library services promised to the voters in 2008?

If you are not willing to ask County voters, then limit your action to clarifying that District Revenue cannot be used for capital purposes, consistent with the founding premise approved by the voters in 2008.