



October 28, 2025

RE: Library Funding Allocation Proposal

Chair Harrington and Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

Tualatin wishes to express gratitude and appreciation for the immense amount of work, effort, discussion, and collaboration from all of the member libraries, WCCLS, and the consultant team that has gone into development of the funding allocation proposal before you.

Tualatin is supportive of this allocation proposal; the methodology is understandable and defensible and it supports the Tualatin Library mission to continue providing this fundamental service to our community. Tualatin's City Council is supportive of the local option levy that ensures the level of funding that the allocation model is built on; without it this would be a completely different conversation.

There are two issues we would like to highlight; both will be top of mind for Tualatin as we continue into the next phase of this work:

- The entire Cooperative, all member libraries, are dependent on General Fund dollars. In Tualatin, the City General Fund comprises almost 30% of the Library budget, with the WCCLS allocation accounting for almost 70%; the WCCLS allocation is made up of approximately 45% County General Fund (in FY 25-26). We are supportive of including a requirement for member libraries to contribute a portion of their General Fund to the Library, accompanied by a requirement that the County General Fund continue to contribute a portion as a transfer to WCCLS. We understand that there is continued pressure on the General Fund, both city and county; however, libraries are so fundamental to the fabric of our communities that they must continue to be prioritized by both the member libraries and the county through contributions from the General Fund, committed to in writing.
- As we begin work on centralizing the collection we strongly advocate for maintaining community-focused local library collections. As the survey conducted by WCCLS last year showed, the local collection is what users value most about libraries, and selection of materials was the second highest factor in choosing





which library to visit. The Tualatin Library has a robust collection, praised by our patrons for the diversity of materials and topics. This is essential to our success in achieving the library's mission. Tualatin's professional librarians have their pulse on what our patrons want and need and look for; they are working with patrons on a daily basis. This is about serving our local community, and having a local-focused collection is vital to that. Our local community assessments also reflect a strong appreciation for the variety of materials in Tualatin's collection. We will also advocate that member libraries be involved in annually determining the amount to be spent on collections at the member library, and be given input into how that money is broadly allocated among collection areas; we ask that this be a written commitment.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to library services in Washington County and we look forward to the future together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherilyn Lombos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sherilyn Lombos  
Tualatin City Manager

