

CITY OF SEATTLE

PROPOSITION 1

Library Levy measure placed on the August 7, 2012 ballot

Suggested revision for City Attorney's Explanatory Statement

Seattle Proposition 1 would approve a property tax increase totaling \$122,630,099 over seven years. The City would be allowed to collect up to \$17,000,000 in the first year and the levy amount could then grow by up to 1% per year.

Proposition 1 would authorize the collection of more property taxes than would otherwise be allowed by the limits imposed under Section 84.55 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). That state law generally limits the annual increase in property tax revenue to 1% over the highest amount that the City could have received in one of the three most recent years. If approved, Proposition 1 would lift that lid on property taxes.

The taxes authorized by Proposition 1 are in addition to those collected under the limits of RCW 84.55 or any other authorized levy lid lifts. In the first year of collection (2013), the additional tax rate associated with the tax increase authorized by Proposition 1 for any property owner would be approximately 15 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

The levy ordinance (reprinted elsewhere in this voter's pamphlet) in its section 5 offers "illustrative examples" of how the taxes raised by the levy might be spent: operations, major maintenance and capital improvements relating to the Seattle Public Library, including:

1. Hours and Access. Major program elements include supporting operating hours at the neighborhood branches and Central Library, and providing support for in-person reference services.
2. Collections. Major program elements include providing variety and depth in the Library's collections with new titles in print and other formats, increasing the size and

quality of the digital collection, and making local history resources more widely available through digitization.

3. Technology. Major program elements include replacements and upgrades to the Library's public computer inventory and online resources, including user-focused improvements to the catalog and public website.

4. Maintenance. Major program elements include enhanced resources to provide regular care and major maintenance, such as repair or replacement of structural elements and building systems, for the Library's heavily-used buildings as they age, to prolong their useful life and ensure they are clean, safe and welcoming."

Immediately after the above listing, section 5 of the levy ordinance states: "These program elements are illustrative examples. The levy proceeds will be spent in accordance with the annual City budget process for each year of the levy. The City Librarian and Library Board shall submit to the Mayor and City Council the funding and expenditure plan that will support, maintain and improve the core library services identified in the categories above. Each year the Library Board shall adopt an annual operations plan and capital budget."

Each year the Mayor and City Council will work out a budget that determines how much of the levy proceeds will go to the Library. The Library Board will then adopt a budget that determines how it will spend any levy proceeds that it receives.