

Program #10023 - OHS Local Option Levy 4/25/2019

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Mark Campbell
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) is a private not-for-profit entity founded in 1898. Since 1899, it has received appropriations from 1) state government (except 2002-6) in recognition of its operation of the state history museum and a large Oregon history research library; 2) Multnomah County (\$335k per year, 1999-2003) as a participant in the county library levy; and 3) Multnomah County special purpose levy 26-174 in May, 2016 that renewed levy support at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand of assessed value and renewal following the expiration of the initial levy.

Program Summary

OHS operates the Oregon History Museum, the Davies Family Research Library, and educational programs for adults, families and school groups (and also serves as the Multnomah County history repository). After nearly a decade of cuts in appropriations, programs, and service hours, the levy funding (which started in 2011) has provided basic operational support, as well as funding to underwrite the improved hours of service in the library, free admission to residents of Multnomah County and all Oregon school groups, improved collections development and care, and new and exciting programming. OHS is committed to serving the diverse communities of the region and the state, and reflects that commitment in every aspect of its operations.

Four east county historical societies of Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes (renamed East County Historical Organization – ECHO), Gresham, Troutdale and Crown Point Country will together receive \$150,000 per year from the levy proceeds. The levy allocates the balance, estimated at \$3.3 million in FY 2019-20, to the Oregon Historical Society for its programs and operations.

The levy has provided basic operational support and has certainly increased OHS’s public services. The library has been open 32 hours a week since the July 2011 levy funding went into effect and will continue to be open 32 hours a week during the duration of the second levy and will continue to serve additional patrons. Due to the levy funding, the increased public programs have reached more Oregonians than ever and will continue to focus on programs to reach all corners of Oregon with the passage of the second levy. The levy provided funds to preserve, maintain and display its vast number of collections and the passage of the second levy will continue OHS’ ability to enhance collections care and display more of Oregon’s treasures.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	Multnomah County citizens admitted free of charge	29,171	27,177	27,177	27,500
Outcome	Improved library hours per week	32	32	32	32
Output	Increased number of public programs	253	250	250	250
Quality	Care of Collections through additional curator/registrar	3	1	1	1

Performance Measures Descriptions

In 2018, the Racing to Change exhibit curated by the Oregon Black Pioneers was a huge success, along with Meier and Frank’s Santa Land drawing 7% more Multnomah County resident visits from the previous year. Due to levy funding, public programs continue to increase in number as well as attendance. Four "Family Day" events were launched and these events drew an increasing number of attendees - from around 300 for the first program to approximately 1,000 for the last program.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Measure 26-174 provides the Oregon Historical Society with a five-year property tax levy at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Four east county historical societies (Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes, Gresham, Troutdale, and Crown Point Country) will together receive \$150,000 per year from the levy proceeds.

This levy will continue through FY 2020-21.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Contractual Services	\$0	\$3,233,321	\$0	\$3,453,288
Internal Services	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$3,240,821	\$0	\$3,460,788
Program Total:	\$3,240,821		\$3,460,788	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Taxes	\$0	\$3,221,571	\$0	\$3,382,788
Interest	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$16,250	\$0	\$75,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,240,821	\$0	\$3,460,788

Explanation of Revenues

This is a dedicated local option property tax levy collected by Multnomah County on behalf of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). OHS receives no other County funding.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 10023-19 OHS Local Option Levy