

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO

## Measure 3-405

### BALLOT TITLE

#### LAKE OSWEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOND

**QUESTION:** Shall the City of Lake Oswego issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$14 million for a new public library? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** This measure authorizes the City to issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$14 million to pay a portion of the cost of the design and construction of a new library of approximately 60,000 square feet in the vicinity of First and B Avenue, replacing the existing library at Fourth and D. The new library would include more space for library collections, study and computer areas, and areas for adult, teen, and children's programming. The library would also include community meeting and program space. The City plans to augment bond proceeds with other resources such as urban renewal funds and existing library capital funds to pay for the balance of the library costs and associated parking and site improvements. If the maximum bond amount is issued, the estimated property tax rate would be 17 cents per \$1,000 of Assessed Value (not Real Market Value). The bonds would mature in not more than 25 years.

If the measure is approved, bonds would be issued and repaid over 25 years or less. Property owners would pay an estimated 17 cents for every \$1,000 of Assessed Value (not Real Market Value). Bond proceeds would be used solely for capital improvements and not used to pay for library staff or the operation of the library.

Submitted by  
Catherine Schneider  
City Recorder  
City of Lake Oswego

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

#### Growth in Library Use

The existing 27,100 square foot Lake Oswego Public Library, located at Fourth and D in the First Addition Neighborhood, opened in 1983. Five years later, the City Council-appointed Library Growth Task Force concluded that the building had reached maximum capacity. According to the 2011 Oregon Public Library Statistical Report, since the current facility opened the number of library cardholders has increased from 17,000 to 29,778; reference questions have increased from 19,651 to 62,494; circulation has risen from approximately 444,000 to 1,350,000; and the library's collection has grown from 104,276 to 237,180 items. From 1987 to 2012, library materials circulation per capita has risen from 10.2 to 35.3. The Library has an average of approximately 1,000 visitors per day.

#### Description of the Proposed Library

The proposed 60,000 square foot library will be located at First Street and B Avenue in downtown Lake Oswego on a site owned by the Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency. The new library would provide additional space for library collections and multi-media library materials; areas for adult, teen, and children's programming; study and computer areas; multi-purpose community meeting rooms; and work space for staff and volunteers. A citizen task force will participate in the design of the new library.

#### Project Financing

Voter approval of this measure would allow the City of Lake Oswego to issue up to \$14 million in general obligation bonds to fund a portion of the cost of a new public library. The preliminary estimated cost of the library and associated parking is \$35 million, excluding site acquisition costs. Bond proceeds would be added to other funding sources including up to \$18 million of urban renewal funds, approximately \$2 million of Clackamas County Library District and City library capital funds, and other sources such as donations and proceeds from the sale of the existing library property. The new library would be a component of a First Street North Anchor project that could include other uses, such as residential and retail space, and public parking to serve general downtown parking needs. Bond proceeds will be used only to fund the new library.

**No arguments AGAINST this measure were filed.**

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### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Our Lake Oswego library is the most heavily used public building in the city; about 30,000 citizens have library cards. It's an educational and cultural resource for all ages. The current library building is too small and cannot be expanded where it sits. Fortunately the City owns property on First and B that is ideal for a two-story, 60,000 square foot library.

A new library will have room for books and other media we now have to discard simply because there is no space for them, not because they aren't being used.

A new library will have space for programs on the arts, authors, and music. More than 22,000 people attended one of 600 programs offered last year. Many of those had to be held amidst the reading room while patrons looked for materials or tried to study.

A new library will have a children's room large enough so families aren't turned away from popular programs. In addition to more room for children's books, we could have a larger space for story time.

A new library will have a teen area full of materials that speak to their interests and the life skills young adults need to master. An attractive area, filled with books written for them, can keep teens reading and help them excel in school and life.

A new library will have rooms for small group meetings and rooms for tutoring or quiet study. Many students are required to do group school assignments and there's no better place than the library.

Our new library will be the community's living room in the town's civic heart -- efficient, comfortable, and convenient. With twice the number of parking spaces and transit near by, with meeting rooms and twice as much space for people and materials, the library can continue to be our favorite public amenity.

#### YES -- MEASURE #3-405

Endorsed by the Friends of the Lake Oswego Library Board and Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce

*(This information furnished by Darrel Condra, Yes LOPL)*

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