



City of West Richland Library Levy Lid Lift Fact Sheet

WHAT IS A LEVY LID LIFT? State law limits increases in total property taxes collected from existing property owners to 1% or less each year. Taxing jurisdictions with a tax rate less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to “lift” the levy [property tax] lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate.

WHY HAS A LEVY LID LIFT BEEN PROPOSED? This proposition replaces the source of funding for Library Operations in West Richland. In 2003, City voters approved a 2.5% increase in the utility tax on telephone, electric and gas utility services within the City specifically dedicated to the Library. The revenue from the utility tax increase has been declining and is no longer sufficient to sustain current library service levels.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE LEVY LID LIFT TO PASS? A simple majority vote of West Richland residents in the November 8, 2016 election.

WHAT WILL THE LEVY LID LIFT COST? If approved by voters, the current 2.5% utility taxes on telephone, electric, and gas would be replaced, beginning in 2017, by a property tax levy lid lift of \$0.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If approved, the City projects that \$496,966 will be collected via the levy to fund library services in 2017. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay \$7.50 a month (\$90.00 per year) for library services. Currently, a home with a combined monthly electric and phone bills of \$250 pays \$6.25 a month (or \$75.00 per year).

WHEN WOULD THE LEVY LID LIFT TAKE EFFECT? If passed, the levy lid lift would take effect on January 1, 2017.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY LID LIFT FAILS? The City currently contracts with Mid-Columbia Libraries (MCL) to provide library services. If the levy lid lift fails, the City will not have the revenue to maintain the current contract with MCL and will result in a reduction of library services in West Richland.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY LID LIFT PASSES? The property tax levy increase would be dedicated to Library Operations and allow the continuation of current library service levels in West Richland.

WHO VOTES? Registered voters within the city limits of West Richland.

QUESTIONS? Jessica Platt at (509) 967-7134 or jplatt@westrichland.org, or Davin Diaz at (509) 737-6365 or ddiaz@midcolumbialibraries.org.