

Resolution No. 31345

A RESOLUTION relating to The Seattle Public Library and setting forth a structure, process and schedule to consider placing a Library Levy on the August 7, 2012 ballot for funding to be used in combination with existing City funding for Library operations and major maintenance.

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Resolution sponsored by: Richard Conlin

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote
12.12.11	Adopt	8-0
		<del>8</del> absent: TR

Related Legislation File: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Introduced and Referred: Dec. 12, 2011	To: (committee): Special Committee on the Library Levy
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: 12.19.11	Date Presented to Mayor: 12.20.11
Date Signed by Mayor: 12.28.11	Date Returned to City Clerk: 12.29.11
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Returned Without Concurrence:
Published in Full Text _____	

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
12.19.11	Adopted	9-0

*Law Department*

**RESOLUTION** 31345

A RESOLUTION relating to The Seattle Public Library and setting forth a structure, process and schedule to consider placing a Library Levy on the August 7, 2012 ballot for funding to be used in combination with existing City funding for Library operations and major maintenance.

WHEREAS, The Seattle Public Library (Library) was established in 1890 and since that time has served as a free source of information and a community gathering place for residents of Seattle and the region; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 Seattle voters overwhelmingly supported the Libraries for All bond measure, which made library services more accessible throughout the City by supporting the construction of four branch libraries in communities without library service, the replacement or renovation of 22 existing branches and the development of a new downtown Central Library; and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of Libraries for All has contributed to a tremendous growth in Library usage; in 2010 the Library recorded nearly 7 million in-person patron visits system-wide, circulated over 11 million items and hosted 1.6 million public internet sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Library provides residents with access to an array of free services and programming, including computer and job search classes, tax preparation help and citizenship classes and introduces Seattle to local and world-renowned authors through author readings and book discussion groups; and

WHEREAS, the Library is an important partner in the education of Seattle's youth through crucial literacy activities for young children, homework help, programs to encourage reading over summer vacation, teen activities and other vital services; and

WHEREAS, the Library's public computers and wireless network provide free internet access for Seattle residents, and Library staff are available to help residents to find, evaluate and use information; and

WHEREAS, the Library's mobile services bring books and other materials to seniors and other residents who may lack the mobility to access their neighborhood branch library; and

WHEREAS, the Library has no dedicated funding source to keep operating budgets stable or keep pace with increasing maintenance costs; and



1 WHEREAS, about 95 percent of the Library's 2012 operating budget is supported by the City's  
2 General Fund; and

3 WHEREAS, the City Council may not increase regular property taxes by more than one percent  
4 without a vote of the people; and

5 WHEREAS, the Library's heavy reliance on the General Fund makes it particularly vulnerable to  
6 the constraints on the growth of this revenue source; and

7 WHEREAS, the weakening of the national and local economies in recent years has affected City  
8 revenues and placed significant spending pressures on the General Fund; and

9 WHEREAS, the Library's reliance on the City's General Fund places it in competition for  
10 funding with other city priorities, including public safety and services for the homeless;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, as a result of constraints on the City's General Fund, the entire Library system has  
13 been closed for one week every year since 2009, Library employees have taken an unpaid  
14 furlough of one week every year since 2009, fifteen of the 26 neighborhood branch  
15 libraries are currently closed two days per week, and the Library's collections budget has  
16 been cut by more than 13 percent since 2009; and

17 WHEREAS, the City's financial situation is not expected to significantly improve over the next  
18 three to four years and further reductions in General Fund support for the Library may be  
19 unavoidable; and

20 WHEREAS, library system operations in other jurisdictions, including Multnomah County  
21 (Portland), Oregon, are supported by a combination of levy proceeds and General Fund;  
22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
24 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

25 **Section 1. Findings and Declarations.** The City of Seattle finds and declares as follows:

26 A. A strong Library system supports the economic, educational and cultural vitality of our  
27 city, and contributes to fostering an informed community;

28 B. Libraries are anchors of Seattle's neighborhoods; and



1 C. A new dedicated and stable source of funding would diversify the Library's existing  
2 funding base; provide a stable source of funding which, in combination with the City General  
3 Fund, will allow the Library to continue to provide the collections, services, technology and  
4 programs valued by Seattle residents; and preserve the recent capital investments in Library  
5 buildings that were supported by Libraries for All.

6 **Section 2. Purpose.** The Seattle City Council and the Mayor of Seattle shall work with  
7 the Library and Library's Board of Trustees (the Library Board) to develop a Library Levy  
8 proposal for the August 7, 2012 ballot.

9 **Section 3. Library Levy Public Engagement Process.** The Library Board and the City  
10 Librarian shall obtain input from a broad cross-section of the community regarding the essential  
11 elements of a sustainable Library budget. The Library Board shall convene three public  
12 meetings at which proposed programmatic elements will be presented for public input and  
13 comment. The Library Board shall also convene a workshop with civic leaders to assist in  
14 developing a Library Levy proposal.

15 **Section 4. Library Board and City Librarian Recommendations.** The Library Board  
16 and City Librarian shall work with the Mayor and City Council to develop a set of  
17 recommendations regarding the term and annual amount to be levied from a 2012 Library Levy.  
18 The recommendations shall all provide the Library with a dedicated funding source to be used in  
19 combination with existing operating and capital (major maintenance) funding sources and take  
20 into account the comments the Library Board receives from the public and civic leaders. In  
21 developing the recommendations, all parties should recognize that the City might not be able to  
22 sustain its current level of General Fund support for the Library over the course of a multi-year  
23 levy.

24 **Section 5. City Council Consideration of a Library Levy.** The City Council shall  
25 consider the recommendations for a 2012 Library Levy presented by the Library Board and City  
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27  
28



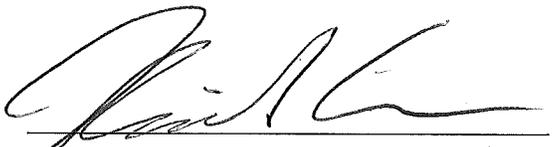
1 Librarian. The Council may also consider and vote on legislation that would place a Library  
2 Levy proposal on the August 7, 2012 ballot.

3 **Section 6. Schedule for Developing 2012 Library Levy.** The following schedule  
4 identifies major milestones and decision points that will apply if a 2012 Library Levy is placed  
5 on the August 7, 2012 ballot. The timeline below may be subject to change but the process and  
6 order of decisions should not deviate significantly from what is outlined below.

Date	Action
January – February 2012	* Library Board hears public input at three community meetings and a civic leaders workshop. * Library Board and City Librarian work with the Mayor and City Council to develop recommendations for a 2012 Library Levy.
March 19, 2012	* Ordinance for 2012 Library Levy is introduced to City Council.
March - April 2012	* City Council considers and holds public hearing(s) on proposed Ordinance.
April 2012	* Council considers Ordinance to place 2012 Library Levy on August 7, 2012 ballot.
August 7, 2012	* Public vote on 2012 Library Levy ballot measure.



1           Adopted by the City Council the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011, and  
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 19<sup>th</sup> day  
3 of December, 2011.

4  
5   
6 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

7  
8 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

9   
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Michael McGinn, Mayor

12  
13 Filed by me this 29 day of December, 2011.

14   
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

17  
18 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Patricia Lee – 386-0078 Sara Belz – 684-5382	

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION relating to The Seattle Public Library and setting forth a structure, process and schedule to consider placing a Library Levy on the August 7, 2012 ballot for funding to be used in combination with existing City funding for Library operations and major maintenance.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This resolution recognizes the role a strong public library system plays in the City’s economic, educational and cultural vitality; the Seattle Public Library’s (Library) current reliance for revenue on the City’s General Fund; and the need for a new dedicated and stable source of funding that, in combination with the City’s General Fund, will allow the Library to provide the resources and services valued by Seattle residents and preserve the public’s capital investments in Library buildings. The Seattle City Council, Mayor, City Librarian and Library Board of Trustees will work together to develop a Library Levy proposal for the August 7, 2012 ballot.

The Library Board and City Librarian will obtain input from a broad cross-section of the community regarding essential elements of a sustainable Library budget and work with the Mayor and City Council to develop recommendations for a 2012 Library Levy by March 2012. The City Council established a City Council Special Committee on the Library Levy that will meet from December through April 2012 to consider a 2012 Library Levy for the August 7, 2012 ballot.

**Background:**

The Library is funded almost entirely by the City’s General Fund. The City’s inability to increase regular property taxes by more than one percent without a vote of the people and the resultant constraint this places on the growth of City revenues has had a significant impact on the Library’s budget in recent years. This includes closure of the entire Library system for one week every year since 2009, Library employees taking an unpaid furlough of one week every year since 2009, 15 of the 26 neighborhood branch libraries reducing operating hours and a 13percent reduction in the library’s collections budget since 2009.

X  This legislation does not have any financial implications.



**Other Implications:**

**a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**

This resolution provides the framework for the City Council, Mayor and Library to discuss and consider placing a Library Levy on the August 2012 ballot. A levy would impact the future funding of the Library.

**b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**

NA

**c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

No

**d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**

NA

**e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No

**f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No

**g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No

**h) Other Issues:**

None



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STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

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279737  
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No.

**Affidavit of Publication**

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:31342,44-45 TITLE ONLY

was published on

01/06/12

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 48.83, which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

01/06/12

Notary public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

## State of Washington, King County

### City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on December 19, 2011, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 31342**

A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation to study parking supply and utilization for customers, visitors, residents, employees and commuters in the West Seattle Triangle Planning Area and to develop a parking management plan for the area.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 31344**

A RESOLUTION Recognizing the South Lake Union/Uptown Triangle Mobility Plan and its recommendations.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 31345**

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Publication ordered by the City Clerk  
Date of publication in the Seattle Daily  
Journal of Commerce, January 6, 2012.  
1/6(279737)