

YOUR LIBRARY. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICE.

UNDERSTANDING **TIMBERLAND** **REGIONAL LIBRARY'S** LEVY LID LIFT

On November 3, voters will decide the future of TRL's funding.

Timberland Regional Library is here for everyone. Whether you're checking out your next great read, bringing your child to storytime, researching a new skill, applying for a job, using free Wi-Fi, or attending a community program, your library provides free access to the resources, technology, and opportunities that help our communities thrive.

Serving five counties and 29 libraries across southwest Washington, TRL connects people of all ages with books, digital resources, lifelong learning, and welcoming spaces to gather, create, and explore.

A portion of local property taxes funds Timberland Regional Library through the library levy. On November 3, voters will decide whether to approve a levy lid lift that would help support library services for the communities we serve.

VOTE

BALLOTS MAILED
OCTOBER 16

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3



Learn more about the levy
and how it supports your
community at TRL.org/levy



Timberland Regional
LIBRARY



ABOUT THE BALLOT MEASURE

WHY ARE WE VOTING ON THIS NOW?

Washington State law limits annual property tax growth to 1% per year. As a result, TRL's levy rate has declined from the legal maximum of \$0.50 to our current rate of \$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value. While we have made adjustments to control costs, TRL has not had a full levy rate in 25 years, and revenue growth has not kept up with rising costs.

If approved by voters, the 2026 levy will provide vital funding to maintain hours, staffing, collections, and programs. Without it, hours, staffing, and essential services will be reduced, and essential building maintenance will be delayed. Further budget cuts could lead to limited access and may not reflect the evolving needs or expectations of community members.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



If the levy lid lift is **approved**
TRL will be able to:

- Provide more open, staffed hours and days at libraries throughout the district.
- Increase collections & reduce wait times.
- Continue providing public access to computers, wifi, and printing.
- Improve spaces for meeting, studying and connection - with input from local community.



If the levy lid lift is **rejected**
TRL will need to:

- Significantly reduce open, staffed hours across the district.
- Reduce Anywhere Library Mobile Services.
- Have a smaller digital and physical collection with longer wait times.
- Rely on card access only unstaffed hours for branches that have Expanded Access.

BY THE NUMBERS

HOW MUCH OF PROPERTY TAXES DO LIBRARIES MAKE UP?

Grays Harbor
County:

2.16%

Lewis
County:

2.67%

Pacific
County:

2.63%

Mason
County:

2.82%

Thurston
County:

2.28%

HOW MUCH WOULD MY PROPERTY TAXES INCREASE BY?

Grays Harbor
County:

\$3.58/mo*
or \$43/yr

*based on 2025 median
home value of \$330,370

Lewis
County:

\$4.50/mo*
or \$54/yr

*based on 2025 median
home value of \$410,000

Pacific
County:

\$3.42/mo*
or \$41/yr

*based on 2025 median
home value of \$315,000

Mason
County:

\$4.75/mo*
or \$57/yr

*based on 2025 median
home value of \$440,000

Thurston
County:

\$5.75/mo*
or \$69/yr

*based on 2025 median
home value of \$530,959

LIBRARY USE IN 2025



4,110,670

Checkouts



193,232

Public Computer Sessions



13,492

Library Programs



122,520

Public Wi-Fi Sessions



104,562

Library Program Attendees



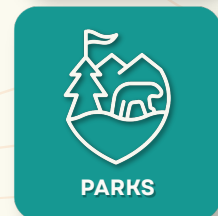
864,195

Print Jobs

LEVY BASICS

WHAT IS A LEVY?

A levy is a tax that's collected for a specific purpose. Many community services are funded through property tax levies, like schools, fire departments, parks – and your library system.



IS THE LIBRARY LEVY NEW?

No, this is not a new levy. Levies are normal funding for public libraries in Washington state.

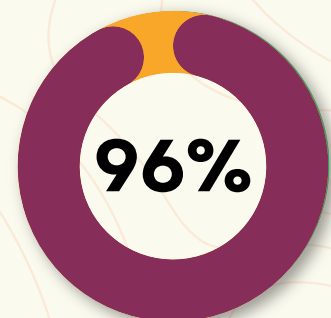
HOW MUCH OF TRL'S BUDGET DOES THE LIBRARY LEVY PROVIDE?

The library levy provides 96% of TRL's budget.

WHY CAN'T THE LIBRARY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES?

The library does receive funding from other sources, including Timber Tax (around 5.4% in 2026), donations, and Friends of the Library. But these make up a very small fraction of our budget.

Timber Tax (around 5.4% in 2026), donations, and Friends of the Library.



TOTAL BUDGET

LEVY BASICS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LEVY AND A LEVY RATE?

Think of a levy as the total amount raised. A levy rate is the amount someone pays per \$1,000 of assessed property value.



IF PROPERTY VALUES INCREASE, DOES A LEVY INCREASE BY THE SAME RATE?

No, because there is a legal limit to how much a levy can increase every year without voter approval.

HOW MUCH CAN A LEVY INCREASE PER YEAR WITHOUT VOTER APPROVAL?

Under Washington state law, the total amount a district collects from a regular property tax levy can only increase by 1% a year, even if inflation or service demands rise faster than that.

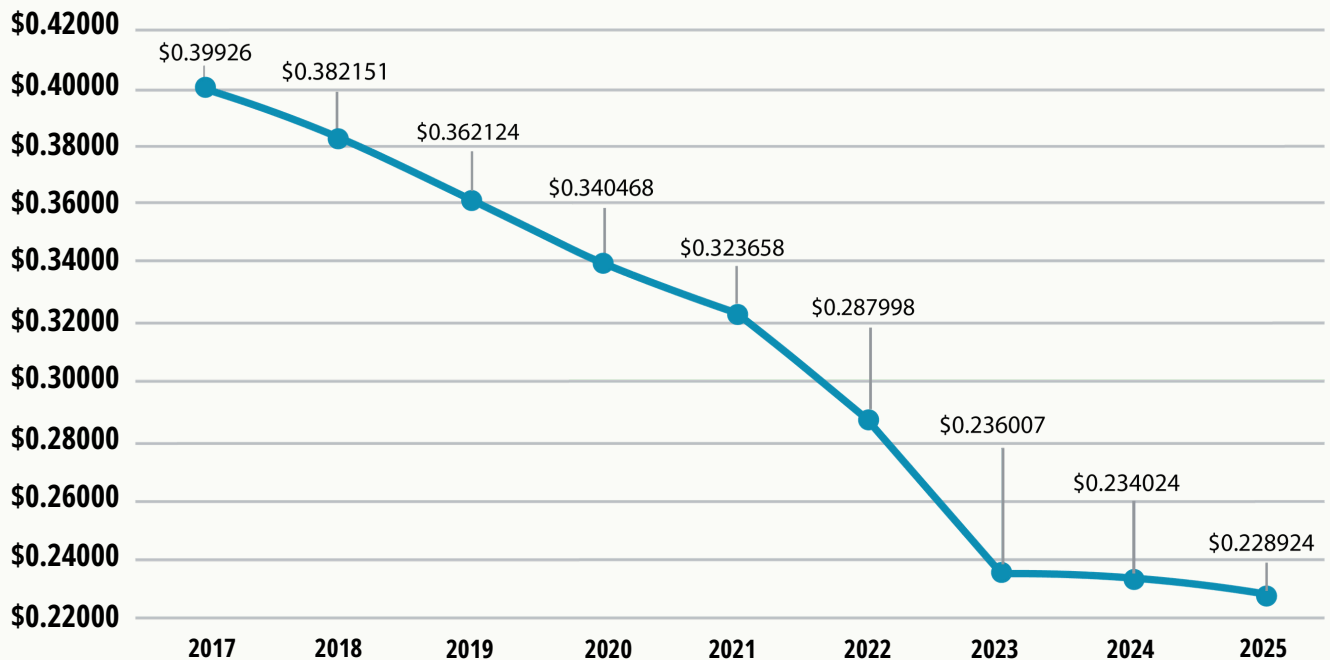


LEVY BASICS

DOES LIBRARY FUNDING STAY THE SAME?

No, the library levy rate falls over time. As the total value of property in the Library District increases, the tax rate drops so the Library District doesn't collect more than the allowed 1% increase.

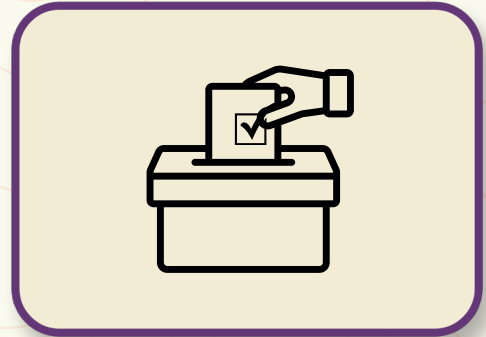
TRL LEVY RATE OVER TIME



LEVY BASICS

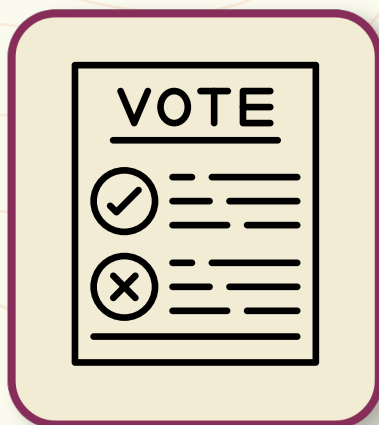
IS THERE A WAY TO INCREASE A LEVY BY MORE THAN 1% IN A YEAR?

The only way to do this is through voter approval, and that is what this year's vote on the library levy is about.



WHAT IS A LEVY "LID LIFT"?

A levy lid lift is a term used in local government finance that refers to a voter-approved increase in property tax limits. A levy "lid lift" is the tool voters use to temporarily increase a levy beyond the 1% limit.



HOW OFTEN IS THIS ON THE BALLOT?

It is common for library districts to return to voters every several years to restore their library levy to keep up with rising costs. TRL has not gone out for a Levy Lid Lift since 2009.

LIBRARY LEVY HISTORY

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME TIMBERLAND LIBRARIES VOTERS APPROVED RESTORING THE LIBRARY LEVY?

The last time voters approved a levy lid lift was in 1987, prior to the passage of Initiative 747 limiting annual increases to property tax.

WHAT IS THE LIBRARY LEVY RATE TODAY?

\$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LIBRARY LEVY RATE IF THE MEASURE IS APPROVED?

If the measure is approved, the library levy rate would be increased to \$0.35 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LIBRARY LEVY RATE IF THE MEASURE IS REJECTED?

If the measure is rejected, the library levy rate will remain at its current level (\$0.22 per \$1,000).

The current
levy rate is

\$0.22

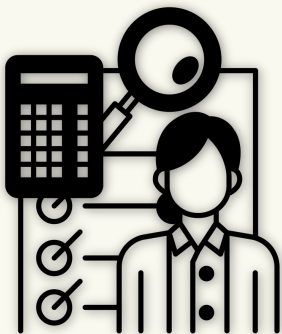
per \$1,000 of
property value



The levy rate
would increase to

\$0.35

per \$1,000 of
property value



HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW MUCH I PAY IN PROPERTY TAXES?

Your property tax information is available through your county assessor's office.

VOTING INFORMATION

**WHEN WILL
BALLOTS BE
MAILED?**



Oct 16

**WHEN IS THE
ELECTION?**



Nov 3

**WHAT DO I
DO WITH MY
BALLOT?**

Voters can drop their ballot in an official ballot drop box. They can also mail their ballot, but it must be postmarked by Election Day—the USPS recommends mailing a week before Election Day.

**WHERE CAN I
CHECK MY
VOTER
REGISTRATION
OR REGISTER
TO VOTE?**



votewa.gov

**WHERE CAN I
FIND
ADDITIONAL
ELECTION
INFORMATION?**



sos.wa.gov/elections

**I HAVE MORE
QUESTIONS—
WHO CAN I
TALK TO?**



trl.org/contact-us



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