



NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 28, 2016
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: **Laura Pappani, County Librarian**
SUBJECT: Resolution placing an ordinance on the ballot of November 8, 2016 to continue the Library sales tax at the adjusted rate of ¼ of one percent.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: Not applicable.

BACKGROUND: The Library is able to provide the public-inspired services that it does because of the funding provided by Measure C, passed by Nevada County voters in June 2002. In addition to the opening of Penn Valley and Bear River locations, Measure C enabled the Library to expand and improve the larger branches by building an addition onto the Truckee Library, remodeling the Grass Valley Library – Royce Branch, and adding a Collaborative Technology Center to the Madelyn Helling Library. The sales tax funding has enabled the Library to purchase equipment to improve efficiency, such as self-check machines and more computers. It has also allowed the Library to hire staff to support increased hours and days of operation, as well as a broad array of public services and programs.

The Nevada County Libraries are maximizing current resources to provide important services to the community, but Measure C will expire on September 30, 2018. Sales tax funds comprised 65% of the FY15/16 budget, so the importance of the sales tax revenue stream cannot be understated. However, financial forecasting shows that the one-eighth of a percent sales tax is not sustaining the current level of service. Modest annual revenue increases generated with the sales tax at one-eighth of a percent are not keeping pace with the rising costs of Library operations.

In December 2014, a Public Library Committee was formed to advise County staff on strategies for moving forward in the current economic climate. The Public Library Committee requested that

a renewal of the Library sales tax be pursued and that the Library sales tax be adjusted from one-eighth of a percent to one-quarter of a percent in order to sustain current levels of service.

Beyond simply sustaining current operations, a sales tax of one-quarter of a penny will enable the Library to increase levels of service in areas that have proven through surveys to be important to the people of Nevada County: children's programs, services, and materials; access to technology and the internet; and hours of service. Placing a Library sales tax measure on the ballot in November 2016 will enable the County to start providing enhanced versions of these much-requested services starting in 2017. The Measure C tax rate will be discontinued when the new sales tax measure is established; there will be no overlap.

Without an extension of Measure C, the Library would lose almost two-thirds of its funding and the number of public hours, new materials, staff members, and services would plummet accordingly.

The sales tax ordinance requires that the County contract with the State Board of Equalization to administer and collect the sales and use taxes. Once approved by voters, a separate resolution for this purpose will be brought to the Board of Supervisors to authorize this contract. The County is also required to continue the level of General Fund support included in the FY 16/17 budget for the duration of this voter-approved period.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Pappani, County Librarian

Item Initiated and Approved by: Laura Pappani, County Librarian