

## Explanatory Statement

The Scappoose Public Library District is an independent library district serving a population of over 12,000 in its taxing district which includes Scappoose and areas outside the city limits. Formerly the Scappoose City Library, the library district was created in 1986 after the Scappoose City Council voted to stop funding the library. The library currently receives no operating support from the city or county. Since 1997, the library has had a permanent tax rate of 25.36 cents per \$1,000 of assessed (not market) value which funds operations and activities.

This measure would establish a new five-year levy that would run from July 2026 through June 2031.

### What would the levy accomplish?

Last year, the library circulated over 100,000 items to more than 6,900 registered borrowers. Circulation has nearly doubled in the past eight years. The Scappoose Public Library circulates more materials and has more activities and programs for children and adults than any other library in Columbia County. The library hosted over 18,000 participants at in-person events in 2024. The 2025 Summer Reading Program had over 700 children participate. Until now, the Library District has never asked the taxpayers for additional support.

The Scappoose Public Library is a community hub and a resource for children, teens, and adults of all ages.

This levy would help maintain services for all district residents including:

- Access to books, materials, and electronic formats for everyone in the community
- Children's reading events and afterschool activities
- Two children's storytimes a week
- Programming and services for families and adults
- Community programs like Movies in the Park
- Retention of library staff
- 51 open hours per week
- Expanded collection of electronic books and audiobooks.
- Public computers and low-cost printing
- 24/7 Wi-Fi
- Low-cost public meeting room

## How would this levy impact a homeowner's taxes?

This levy would set a fixed rate of 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A typical homeowner with an assessed value (not market value) of \$350,000 would see a tax increase of \$35 annually. Every property owner can find their assessed value for their property on their property tax statement.

## What would happen if this levy does not pass?

The current Scappoose Library tax income does not cover all expenses. The library has increasingly paid for expenses through grants, gifts, and sponsorships which are declining. If this levy does not pass, reductions in library service will likely occur. These reductions could affect open hours, book purchases, community events, maintaining technology, and library programs. These reductions would likely begin in 2026. This local option levy would provide a reliable source of additional revenue for the library.

For more information, visit [scappooselibrary.org/levy](https://scappooselibrary.org/levy)