



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

CB 119491

Record No.: CB 119491

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 2

Ord. no: Ord 125809

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 03/26/2019

Final Action: 04/26/2019

Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on August 6, 2019, a proposition to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of sustaining investments in Library operating hours, collections, technology, and maintenance while expanding access to opportunity through additional hours, Library materials, and technology and undertaking seismic retrofits of three Library facilities; authorizing creation of a new fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk: 4/26/2019

Mayor's Signature: 4/26/2019

Sponsors: Juarez

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: adam.schaefer@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	03/26/2019	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
1	City Clerk	03/26/2019	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	03/28/2019	sent for review	Select Committee on the Library Levy			
	Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Select Committee on the Library Levy						

Notes:

- 1 City Council 04/01/2019 referred Select Committee
on the Library Levy
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Select Committee on the Library Levy
Notes:
- 1 Select Committee on the 04/08/2019 discussed
Library Levy
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was discussed.
Notes:
- 1 Select Committee on the 04/11/2019 discussed
Library Levy
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was discussed.
Notes: **The Council Bill (CB) was briefed and discussed in Committee. A public hearing was held following the briefing.**
- 1 Select Committee on the 04/17/2019 pass as amended Pass
Library Levy
Action Text: The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).
In Favor: 7 Chair Juarez, Vice Chair Bagshaw, Member González , Member Harrell,
Member Herbold, Member Mosqueda, Member O'Brien
Opposed: 0
- 2 City Council 04/22/2019 passed Pass
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Bill:
Notes:
In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council
President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez,
Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember
Sawant
Opposed: 0
- 2 City Clerk 04/24/2019 submitted for Mayor
Mayor's signature
- 2 Mayor 04/26/2019 Signed
- 2 Mayor 04/26/2019 returned City Clerk
- 2 City Clerk 04/26/2019 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:
-

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE

125809

COUNCIL BILL

119491

AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on August 6, 2019, a proposition to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of sustaining investments in Library operating hours, collections, technology, and maintenance while expanding access to opportunity through additional hours, Library materials, and technology and undertaking seismic retrofits of three Library facilities; authorizing creation of a new fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

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, the Library has relied, in part, on voter-approved funding to maintain and expand its facilities and services for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 Seattle voters overwhelmingly supported the Libraries for All bond measure, which made Library services more accessible throughout the City by adding four branch libraries in communities without Library service, replacing and renovating 22 existing branches, and developing the new downtown Central Library; and

WHEREAS, during the Great Recession, the Library sustained significant cuts in Library operating hours, collection budgets and other Library services while still serving as a safety net for the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Mayor and the City Council, in conjunction with the Library Board of Trustees, identified a property tax levy lid lift as the revenue source that could most feasibly be used in combination with the City's General Fund and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to restore and sustain Library operations at desired service levels; and

1 WHEREAS, in April 2012, the City Council passed Ordinance 123851 to place a \$123 million,
2 seven-year property tax levy to support Library core services on the primary ballot and
3 this measure was decisively approved by voters in August 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, the 2012 Library Levy identified four levy components: Open Hours and Access;
5 Collections; Technology and Online Services; and Maintenance for levy investments; and

6 WHEREAS, through Open Hours and Access, the Library seeks to provide Library services to
7 Seattle residents when they need them through operating hours and outreach efforts; and

8 WHEREAS, through Collections, the Library seeks to provide a robust collection of physical and
9 digital materials to Seattle residents in the formats they prefer and languages that they
10 speak; and

11 WHEREAS, through Technology and Online Services, the Library seeks to make its offerings
12 available to all Seattle residents through its website and online catalogue and bridge the
13 digital divide by providing internet access and technology equipment for the public at its
14 physical locations and by supporting the circulation of mobile devices that allow Seattle
15 residents to access the internet outside of Library facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, through Maintenance, the Library seeks to ensure its facilities are safe, welcoming,
17 and in good repair and makes major maintenance investments to preserve facilities for the
18 next generation; and

19 WHEREAS, the Library currently provides equal and free access to over 2.3 million books and
20 materials, over 2,000 desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and Wi-Fi hotspots, and over
21 10,000 educational and cultural programs annually, and Library staff provide assistance
22 to residents in finding, evaluating, and using information; and

1 WHEREAS, the Library is heavily used by the community, with over five million visits to its 27
2 physical locations in 2018, nearly 12 million visits to its website and catalogue, 2.5
3 million internet sessions through Library public computer equipment or patrons' devices,
4 circulation of nearly 12 million physical and digital items, and attendance of over
5 300,000 at Library programs and events held both at the Library and in the community;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Library access and assistance is particularly important to job seekers, families with
8 small children, students, immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, and those who are
9 economically disenfranchised; and

10 WHEREAS, through the 2012 Library Levy, the Library has been able to fulfill its promises to
11 voters to keep libraries open, to provide a robust collection of books and materials,
12 improve its technology and online services and maintain its buildings for future
13 generations; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2012 Library Levy, which expires on December 31, 2019, now provides almost
15 25 percent of the total Library budget, and the loss of this funding source would have a
16 major impact on core Library services and programs and the Library's ability to maintain
17 its investment in its facilities; and

18 WHEREAS, on October 26, 2016 the Library Board of Trustees passed a resolution that
19 authorized the City Librarian to begin an initial planning process in preparation for a
20 Library levy renewal proposal in 2019 and committed to a collaborative process with the
21 Mayor and City Council to identify the level of funding and renewal package at the
22 appropriate time; and

1 WHEREAS, in April 2018, the Library undertook a Programs and Services Assessment survey,
2 which was available in eight languages, to help understand residents' priorities for their
3 Library system and received more than 26,000 responses, including a statistically
4 significant subset of responses from over 700 Library users and non-users who matched
5 the City's demographic profile as reflected in the 2016 American Community Survey;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, according to the statistically significant subset, respondents expressed strong
8 support for the Library, with two out of three respondents indicating they had used
9 Library services over the last six months; and

10 WHEREAS, Library survey respondents re-affirmed that the Library should continue focusing
11 its investments on Access, Collections, Technology, and Facilities as well as identified
12 service enhancements that would lead to more Library usage; and

13 WHEREAS, Seattle residents identified additional Library hours as the highest priority service
14 enhancement; and

15 WHEREAS, the Levy sustains hours added through the 2012 Library Levy and proposes adding
16 Sunday hours system-wide and additional Friday hours at four branches and extended
17 morning/evening hours at three additional branches; and

18 WHEREAS, Seattle residents identified providing a robust collection as the primary role of the
19 Library and the next highest priority service enhancement after additional Library hours;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the Levy sustains collections funding added through the 2012 Library Levy,
22 including buying more copies of popular materials; expanding collection breadth, depth,
23 and access; incorporating more underrepresented voices; and preserving local history;

1 while proposing additional funding to support patrons' shift to use of higher-cost digital
2 materials; and

3 WHEREAS, Seattle residents identified serving high-needs communities as a critical role for the
4 Library; and

5 WHEREAS, recent research shows overdue fines have little impact on borrowers' timeliness in
6 returning materials and have a disproportionate impact on low-income families,
7 discouraging library use; and

8 WHEREAS, many library systems that have eliminated fines experience higher usage; and

9 WHEREAS, the Library Board adopted a Race and Social Justice policy in January 2018, and

10 since the Library wants to ensure equitable access to Library resources for all Seattle

11 residents by removing barriers that disproportionately impact low-income residents, the

12 proposed Levy includes fine-free access to Library materials so that more Seattle

13 residents will be able to access Library resources and benefit from Library services; and

14 WHEREAS, Seattle residents identified providing computer and internet access as a critical role

15 for the Library; and

16 WHEREAS, Library data from the 2018 Library Programs and Services Assessment show that

17 residents in historically underserved neighborhoods were more likely to say they visited

18 the Library to access computers and Wi-Fi; and

19 WHEREAS, the Levy sustains technology and online services funding added through the 2012

20 Library – including replacing and upgrading technology equipment and internet access

21 within Library buildings as well as maintaining the SPL.org website and Library

22 catalogue – while proposing additional funding to upgrade aging technology

23 infrastructure for high-speed public internet access at all Library locations; replace or

1 upgrade the Library's main business platform for procuring, processing and tracking
2 Library materials; and sustain the Library's investments in technology and digital equity,
3 including Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout, currently funded by cable franchise fee
4 revenues; and

5 WHEREAS, the Levy sustains Maintenance funding added through the 2012 Library, including
6 enhanced daily maintenance, preventive maintenance, and major maintenance; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) did a
8 survey of unreinforced masonry buildings in Seattle and identified three Carnegie era
9 Library branches – Columbia, Green Lake, and University – as high-risk during an
10 earthquake. To reduce the risk of injury and loss of life, as well as preserve cherished
11 community assets, the Levy proposes seismic retrofits of these three branches during the
12 next seven years; and

13 WHEREAS, on March 19, 2019, the Library Board of Trustees, in collaboration with Mayor
14 Jenny Durkan, passed a resolution recommending the Seattle City Council approve a
15 \$213.3 million Levy renewal and enhancement for the August 2019 primary election
16 ballot; and

17 WHEREAS, Council intends that by increasing the amount of the levy by \$2,120,760 over the
18 \$213.3 million as transmitted, funding will be allocated to support a new levy category
19 for supporting children, including: (1) expanding Play and Learn programming for
20 children; and

21 WHEREAS, Council intends that by increasing the amount of the levy by \$2,512,000 over the
22 \$213.3 million as transmitted, funding will be allocated to support open hours and access

1 by: (1) opening the 26 Library branches for one additional hour Monday through
2 Thursday with appropriate custodial staffing; and

3 WHEREAS, Council intends that by increasing the amount of the levy by \$1,149,992 over the
4 \$213.3 million as transmitted, funding will be allocated to support open hours and access
5 by: (1) expanding the Community Resource Specialist program with support for youth;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington grants exclusive control of the finances of the
8 Library to the Board of Trustees and authorize the Library Board to oversee the Library's
9 annual operating and capital budgets; and

10 WHEREAS, library investment is a reflection of a community's values; and

11 WHEREAS, by renewing the Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity,
12 promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in
13 libraries of the future; NOW, THEREFORE,

14 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

15 Section 1. Definitions. The following terms, when used and capitalized in this
16 ordinance, shall have definitions stated below:

17 A. "City" means The City of Seattle.

18 B. "Library Board" means the board of trustees of the Library, a five-member
19 body appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, with exclusive control of the
20 finances of the Library under RCW 27.12.210 and sole authority to expend the Library Fund
21 under Article XII of the Seattle City Charter, consistent with the annual appropriation of funds
22 by the City Council.

1 C. "Library Services" means the programs, services, capital improvements, and
2 administration referred to in Section 4 of this ordinance, with such modifications as the City
3 Council may from time to time authorize by ordinance.

4 D. "Proceeds" means that portion of regular property taxes levied and collected
5 as authorized by voter approval pursuant to this ordinance that are above the limits on levies
6 provided for in RCW 84.55.010, and all interest and other earnings derived from that portion of
7 the levy.

8 Section 2. Levy of Regular Property Taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the
9 qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy
10 limitation ("lid") on regular property taxes contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, as it now exists or
11 may hereafter be amended, for property taxes levied in 2019 through 2025 for collection in 2020
12 through 2026. The proposition shall be limited so that in the first year the City shall not levy an
13 additional tax rate of more than \$0.122 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, in addition
14 to the maximum amount of regular property taxes allowed by RCW 84.55.010 in the absence of
15 voter approval under this ordinance, plus other authorized lid lifts. Subsequent years of the Levy
16 will use the amount of dollars raised by this increased rate to calculate the appropriate limit
17 under chapter 84.55 RCW for the remainder of the Levy. To this new limit there will be added
18 no more than a one percent increase in dollars levied for the purposes of this Levy each year.

19 Proceeds shall be used to provide Library Services identified in Section 4 of this
20 ordinance. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City exempts the
21 proposed increased regular property taxes for qualifying seniors, disabled retirees, disabled
22 veterans, or other qualifying persons. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular

1 property taxes that may be levied in 2026 for collection in 2027 and in later years shall be
2 computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

3 Section 3. Application of Levy Proceeds. There is created in the City Treasury the 2019
4 Library Levy Fund. Unless otherwise directed by ordinance, Levy Proceeds shall be deposited in
5 the 2019 Library Levy Fund. The Director of Finance and Administrative Services, or the
6 Director's designee, is authorized to create accounts within the 2019 Library Levy Fund as may
7 be needed or appropriate to implement the purposes of this ordinance. Proceeds may be
8 temporarily deposited or invested in such manner as may be lawful for the investment of City
9 money, and interest and other earnings shall be used for the same purposes as the Proceeds. The
10 Fund shall receive earnings on its positive balances and pay interest on its negative balances.

11 Section 4. Library Services. Levy investments will be made in six categories of Library
12 Services. Program elements, in subsections 4.A through 4.F of this ordinance, are illustrative
13 examples. In accordance with the annual City budget process, each year the Library Board shall
14 adopt an annual operations plan and capital budget. The Chief Librarian and the Library Board
15 shall submit to the Mayor and the City Council an annual levy expenditure plan that will support,
16 maintain, and improve the core Library Services identified in this section. Levy Proceeds will be
17 used, in combination with the annual budget appropriation of City General Fund, Real Estate
18 Excise Tax (REET), and other City funds as available to the Library, for Library Services.

19 A. Hours and Access. Major program elements include: supporting Library operating
20 hours in neighborhood branches and the Central Library; providing access to Library programs
21 and services in the community; and outreach and engagement services throughout the city.

22 B. Collections. Major program elements include: increasing the variety, depth, and
23 accessibility of collections with new titles and additional copies in various physical and digital

1 formats; providing additional online resources as new platforms and services emerge; curating a
2 local history collection and making those resources more widely available through digitization;
3 providing fine-free access to the Library's collections; and continuing innovative approaches to
4 collection distribution and to fulfilling patron material requests.

5 C. Technology. Major program elements include: replacing and upgrading the Library's
6 technology infrastructure, including its Integrated Library System, the Library's main business
7 platform for procuring, processing, and tracking Library materials; its enterprise network that
8 provides high-speed internet and Wi-Fi access to the Central Library and all 26 branches; and its
9 technology equipment such as switches, routers, servers, cabling, computers, tablets, printers,
10 copiers, scanners and widescreen monitors, and other audiovisual equipment for newly emerging
11 technologies such as virtual and augmented reality. Further, this category maintains and
12 enhances the SPL.org website and catalog, with a focus on language accessibility as well as
13 device compatibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The technology
14 program also supports the Library's digital equity efforts, including digital literacy instruction
15 and provision and support of internet access devices for use within Library buildings and for
16 check-out.

17 D. Maintenance. Major program elements include enhanced resources to provide
18 routine, preventive, and major maintenance for the Library's heavily-used buildings as they age,
19 to prolong their useful life. Maintenance also includes funding to seismically retrofit three
20 landmarked branches identified as high-vulnerability in the City's Unreinforced Masonry
21 Building Study.

1 E. Administration. Administration program elements include supporting implementation
2 and accountability measures for Levy programs and annual reporting to the public on Levy
3 outcomes.

4 F. Supporting children. Program elements include support for programming targeted
5 towards children ages zero through 5.

6 Section 5. Reporting. The Chief Librarian and the Library Board will submit to the City
7 Council, the Mayor, and the residents of Seattle annual progress reports on the implementation of
8 the Levy and how Levy Proceeds were used to restore, maintain, and improve the Library
9 Services identified in Section 4 of this ordinance. The report shall be due to the City Council
10 and the Mayor by no later than April 15 of 2021 through 2027.

11 Section 6. Election – Ballot Title. The City Council directs the City Clerk to file this
12 ordinance with the Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of
13 elections, requesting the Director of Elections to call and conduct a special election in the City in
14 conjunction with the state primary election to be held on August 6, 2019, for the purpose of
15 submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this ordinance. The
16 City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved
17 by the City Attorney in accordance with the City Attorney’s responsibilities under RCW
18 29A.36.071. The following ballot title is submitted to the City Attorney for consideration.

19 THE CITY OF SEATTLE

20 PROPOSITION NUMBER 1

21 Property Tax Levy Renewal for The Seattle Public Library
22

1 The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 concerns supporting, maintaining and improving
2 core Library Services.

3
4 If approved, this proposition would sustain investments and increase spending on Library
5 operating hours, collections, technology, and maintenance, including seismic retrofits, as
6 provided in Ordinance XXXXXX. Consistent with chapter 84.55 RCW, it would increase regular
7 property taxes for seven years. The 2020 tax increase, up to \$0.122/\$1,000 of assessed value,
8 would be used to compute limitations for subsequent levies, with up to 1% annual increases.
9 Seniors, veterans, and others who qualify under RCW 84.36.381 would be exempt.

10 Should this levy be approved?

11 Yes

12 No

13 Those in favor shall vote "Yes"; those opposed shall mark their ballots "No".

14 Section 7. Ratification. Certification of such proposition by the City Clerk to the King
15 County Director of Elections for placement on the ballot for the August 6, 2019 election, and any
16 other act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance, are ratified
17 and confirmed.

18 Section 8. Severability. In the event any one or more of the provisions of this ordinance
19 shall for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of
20 this ordinance or the levy of the taxes authorized herein, but this ordinance and the authority to
21 levy those taxes shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid provisions had not been
22 contained herein; and any provision which shall for any reason be held invalid shall be deemed
23 to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

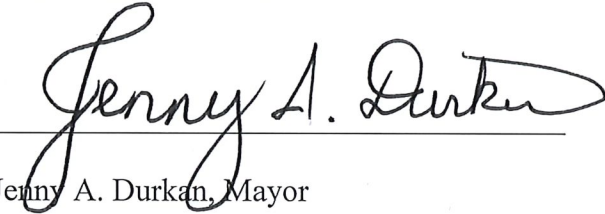
Section 9. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 22nd day of April, 2019,
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 22nd day of
April, 2019.



President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this 26th day of APRIL, 2019.


Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Filed by me this 26th day of April, 2019.



Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
The Seattle Public Library	Chris Ruffini / 233-5109 Jan Oscherwitz / 684-8510	Lisa Gaccione / 684-5339

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on August 6, 2019, a proposition to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of sustaining investments in Library operating hours, collections, technology, and maintenance while expanding access to opportunity through additional hours, Library materials, and technology and undertaking seismic retrofits of three Library facilities; authorizing creation of a new fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

The Seattle Public Library is one of the city's most intensively used and valued community resources. The 2018 Library Programs and Services Assessment showed that 2 in 3 Seattle residents had used the Library's programs and services within the last six months. In 2018, there were more than 5.2 million in-person visits to Library facilities and more than 12 million visits to the Library's website and catalogue. From the Library's collection of 2.3 million items, patrons checked out 8 million physical items and accessed nearly 4 million digital items such as e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming media. Patrons used Library computers or Wi-Fi sessions more than 2.5 million times. Patrons made 750,000 requests for information assistance; and more than 300,000 people attended 10,000 classes, events and activities.

In 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved the City's first operating levy to support the Library. The 2012 Library Levy was put before voters in response to budget reductions over several years, including a nearly \$5.0 million reduction proposed by the City in 2013 in response to financial constraints from the Great Recession. To avoid further degradation to Library service levels, restore some recently reduced hours, preserve investments made in Library facilities through the Libraries for All capital program, and stabilize operating and capital funding, Seattle voters authorized a seven-year, \$123 million dollar property tax levy. The 2012 Levy focused on four spending programs: Open Hours and Access; Collections; Technology, and Maintenance. It also provided funding to offset the nearly \$5.0 million cut in the General Fund in the Library's 2013 Adopted Budget, reduced as a result of expected financial constraints from the Great Recession. The 2012 Library Levy expires at the end of 2019.

The proposed ordinance would submit a \$213,300,000 seven-year Library Levy ("Levy") package to the voters of Seattle for their approval on August 6, 2019. The proposed Levy would be raised under the provisions of RCW 84.55.050, which allows a city to obtain voter approval to exceed the "lid" on regular property taxes for any purposes. The 2018 Library Programs and

Services Assessment, which helped guide the development of the proposed Levy, showed residents supported a continuation of the spending programs introduced as part of the 2012 Library Levy. Therefore, Levy proceeds would continue to support the following four categories of library services for the period January 2020-December 2026:

1) Open Hours and Access - \$67.5 million (annual average - \$9.6 million)

Major program elements include \$61.7 million to sustain funding for operating hours added as part of the 2012 Library Levy. These 2012 levy adds included: elimination of an annual one-week system-wide closure; additional Sunday hours at 15 branches; additional Friday hours at six branches; additional morning and evening hours at two branches; additional hours for security and facilities maintenance due to increased operating hours, including two security officers added in 2019 with one-time General Fund resources; additional hours to provide access to Library resources outside Library facilities; and preservation of hours that otherwise would have been reduced as a result of expected 2013 General Fund cuts due to the Great Recession. The 2019 Levy also includes \$5.8 million in new funding to support morning and evening hours at three additional branches as well as moving four additional branches to seven-days-a-week operations by adding Friday hours. The program also includes one additional operating hour on Sundays at all 26 branches at no incremental cost.

2) Collections - \$58.2 million (annual average - \$8.3 million)

Major program elements include \$45.3 million to sustain funding for collection investments added as part of the 2012 Library Levy: increased access to popular materials through acquisition of more copies and programs such as Peak Picks; increased breadth and depth of the physical collection, with an emphasis on acquisition of materials in world languages and materials by and of interest to underrepresented communities; increased access to local history resources through curation and digitization; expansion of digital collections, including acquisition of emerging formats such as e-audiobooks, streaming services and online training resources; collection staffing support; continued investment in innovative approaches to collection distribution and fulfillment, such as Floating Collections; and preservation of collection investments that otherwise would have been reduced as a result of expected 2013 General Fund cuts due to the Great Recession. The 2019 Levy also includes \$8.0 million in new funding to support fine-free access to the Library's collections, eliminating a barrier that disproportionately impacts low-income patrons; and \$5.0 million in new funding to support patrons' shift to use of higher-cost digital materials.

3) Technology - \$29.4 million (annual average - \$4.2 million)

Major program elements include \$16.2 million to sustain funding for technology investments added as part of the 2012 Library Levy: replace and upgrade technology equipment at the end of its useful life, such as routers, servers, cabling, computers, printers, copiers, scanners and audiovisual equipment; provide and support internet access devices for use within our buildings and for check-out, such as laptops, tablets and mobile hotspots; maintain and keep current the SPL.org website, including ongoing ADA and language accessibility as well as device compatibility. The 2019 Levy also includes funding for two major technology system upgrades, each costing \$4.0 million. The first is to replace or upgrade the Library's primary business platform which manages materials procurement, manual and automated check-in and self-checkout processes, and provides a discovery layer

for patrons to access and explore Library resources from any digital device 24 hours a day. The second is to upgrade aging technology infrastructure responsible for providing high-speed public internet access at the Central Library and all 26 branches, to accommodate patrons growing bandwidth use through personal devices and growth in availability as well as availability and consumption of more bandwidth-intensive materials. The program also includes \$5.3 million to sustain the Library's technology and digital equity investments currently funded by cable franchise fee revenues. Cable franchise fee revenue supports the Library's general computing environment, including desktops, software and printers. It also supports the SPL HotSpot program, digital literacy classes, and equipment purchases. Cable franchise fee revenue has been decreasing and is no longer a sustainable revenue source to support these important Library programs.

4) Maintenance - \$55.7 million (annual average - \$8.0 million)

Major program elements include \$12.9 million to sustain investments in regular and preventative maintenance added as part of the 2012 Library Levy in order to preserve clean, safe and welcoming environments in some of the most heavily used public buildings in the City, including additional custodial support for the Central Library and 26 branch locations; increased window washing as well as increased carpet and upholstery cleaning. Program elements also include \$29.2 million to sustain investments in major maintenance added as part of the 2012 Library Levy, which includes necessary maintenance for basic building components such as roofs, floors, finishes, HVAC and mechanical systems in the Library's 27 locations. The 2019 Levy also includes \$13.8 million in additional funding to undertake seismic retrofits to reduce the risk of injury and loss of life during an earthquake at three Library locations identified as high-risk in a 2016 survey conducted by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection of unreinforced masonry buildings in Seattle.

It is also anticipated that 1- 2% of Levy proceeds will be spent on administrative costs over the course of the 7-year Levy, including \$200,000 for a study to examine the future role of Library programs and services. This funding will be used to support implementation and accountability measures for Levy programs and annual reporting to the public on Levy outcomes.

Levy Investments by Category*

Levy Category	Seven Year Cost (in millions)			Annual Cost	
	Baseline Renewal	+ Additional Investment	= 2019 Levy	Average per Year (Millions)	Estimated Annual Cost to Median Household
Open Hours and Access	\$ 61.7	\$ 5.8	\$ 67.5	\$ 9.6	\$ 26.87
Collections	\$ 45.3	\$ 12.9	\$ 58.2	\$ 8.3	\$ 23.19
Technology	\$ 16.2	\$ 13.2	\$ 29.4	\$ 4.2	\$ 11.72
Maintenance	\$ 41.9	\$ 13.8	\$ 55.7	\$ 8.0	\$ 22.16
Administration	\$ 2.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 2.4	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.98
Total	\$ 167.4	\$ 45.9	\$ 213.3	\$ 30.47	\$ 84.92

Proposed Seven-Year Financial Plan

Levy Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Revenue								

Assessed Property Tax	\$ 29.6	\$ 29.9	\$ 30.2	\$ 30.5	\$ 30.8	\$ 31.1	\$ 31.4	\$213.3
Less Under Collection	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (1.2)
Interest Income	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.9
2012 Levy Offset	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.3
Total Revenue	\$ 29.3	\$ 30.2	\$ 30.5	\$ 30.6	\$ 30.9	\$ 31.2	\$ 31.4	\$213.3
Expenditures								
Open Hours and Access	\$ 8.6	\$ 8.9	\$ 9.2	\$ 9.6	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.4	\$ 10.8	\$ 67.5
Collections	\$ 7.4	\$ 7.7	\$ 8.0	\$ 8.3	\$ 8.6	\$ 9.0	\$ 9.3	\$ 58.2
Technology	\$ 3.2	\$ 3.0	\$ 6.1	\$ 6.1	\$ 3.8	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.9	\$ 29.4
Maintenance	\$ 5.8	\$ 8.5	\$ 6.8	\$ 8.9	\$ 7.1	\$ 10.0	\$ 8.6	\$ 55.7
Administration	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.4	\$ 2.4
Total Expenditures	\$ 25.4	\$ 28.3	\$ 30.4	\$ 33.3	\$ 29.9	\$ 33.0	\$ 33.0	\$213.3

**Tables may not total due to rounding.*

An under-recovery rate of about 1% is assumed in revenue projections.

The Library Board of Trustees has exclusive control of the finances of the Library under RCW 27.12.210 and sole authority to expend the Library Fund under Article XII of the Seattle City Charter. In connection with this fiduciary responsibility and the City's annual budget process, the Library Board shall annually review the allocation of Levy funding to determine allocations that best support, maintain and improve Library services and meet Levy commitments.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes ___X___ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes ___X___ No

No. This ordinance includes no appropriations. The budget authority needed to implement the Library Levy will be considered as part of the annual budget process or through other ordinances. Library Levy revenues will support future appropriations. The Proposed Seven-Year Financial Plan in Section 1 of this legislation contains the spending plan for the levy programs and the anticipated revenue from the proposed levy.

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

No. The passage of the levy will result in an increase in annual expenditures for the next seven years; these costs are summarized in the Proposed Seven-Year Financial Plan in Section 1 Bill Summary of this fiscal note.

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

If this legislation and ballot measure do not pass, the City will lose funding for 25% of the Library's total expenditures, including nearly all the funding for the Library's Capital Improvement Plan critical to maintaining its 27 locations.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No. Library Levy proceeds are administered by The Seattle Public Library and its Board of Trustees.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

Yes. City Council public hearings have been scheduled to review the levy proposal with the Select Committee on the 2019 Library Levy. The following is a list of future scheduled public meetings through June 2019:

- March 28, 2019 2:00 PM – Mayor's Office and The Seattle Public Library present the Library levy renewal proposal.
- April 8, 2019 10:30 AM– Library Select Committee
- April 11, 2019 5:30 PM – Library Select Committee evening public hearing
- April 17, 2019 2:30 PM – Library Select Committee
- April 22, 2019 – Full Council vote

c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

No.

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

No.

e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No

f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

Yes. Currently, the 2012 Library Levy provides around 25 percent of the Library's budget annually, and allows the Library to be open more hours when patrons want and need them; to purchase more books and materials, particularly materials in world languages and materials by and of interest to historically disadvantaged communities; to provide computers; as well as internet access with up-to-date technology and software, including support for Wi-Fi hotspots, which provide free internet access, particularly important for those who otherwise

have no service or cannot afford service; and to keep Library facilities clean and welcoming despite increasingly intensive use.

Each of the four programs in the Levy has an impact on vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities. The Library provides a critical “third place” in an increasingly dense and economically unequal city. Any patron is welcome to use resources and materials, take a class, attend a program, access the internet, learn a skill or simply pass the day without needing to pay. Also, as the city’s population of individuals and families experiencing homelessness has grown, the Central Library and many of the 26 branch locations have become a refuge for individuals needing shelter from inclement weather, access to computers to stay in touch with friends and family or search for a job, or simply have access to a free restroom. The proposed Levy sustains investments Sunday hours at 15 branches; eliminating a one-week system-wide closure; and additional operating hours added at Columbia and Northgate. It also sustains hours added in 2016—using a racial and social equity lens—increasing access for communities served by the South Park, High Point, University and International District/Chinatown branches. With this new proposal, High Point, International District/Chinatown and South Park branches get additional morning and evening hours and four other branches—Delridge, NewHolly, Green Lake and Wallingford branches—will open their doors on Fridays. The proposed Levy also adds one additional hour on Sundays for all branch locations, which will open at noon rather than one o’clock.

The proposed Levy sustains investments in collections made in the 2012 Library Levy and adds an additional \$5.0 million over the life of the levy to allow the Library to maintain and expand the breadth and depth of its collection despite a shift to higher cost digital materials. The collection will continue to acquire world language materials and materials by and of interest to historically disadvantaged communities, as well as expanding the digital collection to meet patron demand and provide increased access to residents who may have mobility issues, preventing them from accessing the physical collection at the Central Library or the 26 branch locations. Further, the Levy makes additional investments in providing fine-free access to the Library’s books and materials. Research has shown that fines have little impact on whether materials are returned on time, but do disproportionately impact low-income individuals and their families, discouraging library use. According to Library data, residents in historically underserved neighborhoods are more likely to have blocked accounts and higher balances owed. The attached maps show a snapshot of the average account balance and the percentage of blocked accounts by Library location overlaid on the Office of Planning & Community Development’s Race and Social Equity Map.

The proposed Levy sustains investments in technology made in the 2012 Library Levy and converts expenditures previously funded by the Cable Franchise Fee to Levy funding, ensuring Library technology at the end of its useful life is replaced and the SPL Hotspot Program and digital equity program continues. The ability to access the internet is critical to ensuring low-income patrons have the opportunity to participate in an increasingly digital world. A survey of hotspot users indicated more than 2 out of 5 users (42%) of the SPL HotSpot Program—which allows individuals to “check out” the internet—report having no internet access at home and 37% report earning less than \$20,000 per year. The HotSpot Program supports the City’s Digital Equity Initiative goals and strategies. The proposed

Levy also includes funding to replace aging infrastructure that provides free internet access to all residents. In the 2018 Library Programs and Services Assessment, residents in historically underserved neighborhoods were more likely to say they visited the Library to access computers and Wi-Fi. The attached map shows survey respondents who say they come to the Library to access Wi-Fi and computers overlaid on the Office of Planning & Community Development's Race and Social Equity Map.

The proposed Levy sustains investments in maintenance made in the 2012 Library Levy to keep Library facilities clean and welcoming despite increasingly intensive use, including additional carpet and upholstery cleaning, as well as additional custodial staff. It also sustains investments in major maintenance to protect the public's investment in the Library's 27 locations, including providing funding to address ADA issues, ensuring patrons with disabilities have use of Library programs and services. The Levy makes additional investments to seismically reinforce and make ADA improvements at three branch locations, including two that serve historically disadvantaged patron bases—the Columbia and University branches.

g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).

The Levy includes a major programmatic expansion in the Collection category by replacing \$8.0 million in existing patron-paid Library revenue, providing fine-free access to Library materials. Long-term goals include reducing the number of blocked accounts; increasing circulation on previously blocked accounts; monitoring patron circulation behavior, including understanding whether a no fines approach positively or negatively influences short-term item return behavior as well as the overall number of items declared lost.

The Levy also includes a major programmatic expansion in the Maintenance category by providing funding to seismically reinforce and make ADA improvements at three branch locations. Success will be determined by project completion, increasing the likelihood these 100+ year-old community anchors survive a significant seismic event.

List attachments/exhibits below:

Summary Attachment 1 – Average Account Balance Map
Summary Attachment 2 – Number of Blocked Accounts Map
Summary Attachment 3 – Computer/Wi-Fi Usage Map

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on April 22, 2019, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://seattle.legistar.com>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>.

Ordinance 125807

Council Bill 119480

AN ORDINANCE relating to the 2018 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy; approving an implementation and evaluation plan as required by Ordinance 125604; amending Ordinance 125724, which adopted the 2019 Budget; changing appropriations to the Department of Education and Early Learning and various budget control levels, and from various funds in the Budget; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

Ordinance 125808

Council Bill 119501

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain audited claims and ordering the payment thereof.

Ordinance 125809

Council Bill 119491

AN ORDINANCE relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on August 6, 2019, a proposition to lift the limit on regular property taxes under chapter 84.55 RCW and authorize the City to levy additional taxes for up to seven years for the purpose of sustaining investments in Library operating hours, collections, technology, and maintenance while expanding access to opportunity through additional hours, Library materials, and technology and undertaking seismic retrofits of three Library facilities; authorizing creation of a new fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Ordinance 125810

Council Bill 119494

AN ORDINANCE relating to King County Conservation Futures Levy proceeds; authorizing the Mayor to amend the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between The City of Seattle and King County authorized by City of Seattle Ordinance 114978 to allow for the acceptance of Conservation Futures Levy funds without City Council approval; and authorizing the use of a new amendment template for future amendments to that Agreement.

Ordinance 125811

Council Bill 119497

AN ORDINANCE related to monitoring and inspecting vacant buildings for compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Building Maintenance Code; amending Section 22.900F.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and amending Ordinance 125704 and Ordinance 125727 to modify monitoring fees and monitoring program requirements.

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