

RESOLUTION 2025/03: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Kitsap County Rural Library District dba Kitsap Regional Library (the “District”), providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at an election to be held therein on August 5, 2025, of a proposition authorizing the District to increase its regular property tax levy in support of library services.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the District may levy regular property taxes in any calendar year in excess of the limit factor provided for in RCW 84.55.0101 when such levy has been authorized by a proposition approved by a majority of the voters of the District voting on the proposition at a general or special election within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s primary funding source is the regular property tax levy, which is subject to Washington State’s 1% annual growth cap and has resulted in a revenue shortfall that does not keep pace with inflation and rising operational costs; and

WHEREAS, the last voter-approved levy in 2017 set the rate to \$0.43 per \$1,000 of assessed value, but the effect of the statutory limit over time has been to reduce the current rate to approximately \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 84.55.0101, the District may levy regular property taxes exceeding the statutory limit if approved by a majority of voters in a general or special election; and

WHEREAS, resetting the levy to \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value will provide stable funding for a minimum of five years, ensuring continued access to essential library services, programs, and resources for all Kitsap County residents; and

WHEREAS, without additional revenue, the District will face a reduction of collections and critical services such as early literacy, after-school programs, and technology access, and delayed essential maintenance and improvement of spaces; and

WHEREAS, the District seeks to sustain community needs by providing early learning and literacy programs for babies and toddlers, after-school education for K-12, and technology learning for all ages, supported by up-to-date computers, Wi-Fi, software, and training, and accessible buildings; and

WHEREAS, the proposed levy reset does not fund the construction of a new library in Port Orchard, which is being undertaken with privately fundraised dollars; and

WHEREAS, the District deems it necessary to reset the regular property tax levy rate to \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to maintain current operations and sustain critical services for Kitsap County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary to submit to the voters of the District the proposition of whether or not the District shall levy regular property taxes for collection in 2026 in excess of the limit factor provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW;

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Page 2 of 3

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE KITSAP COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. To maintain current library services, the Board finds and declares that it is necessary that the District reset the regular property tax levy rate from \$0.27 to \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, effective for collection in 2026, and thereafter to use the resulting levy amount for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies as authorized under RCW 84.55. By law, such a proposition must be submitted to the voters of the District for their approval or rejection. If such a proposition is approved by the requisite number of voters, the District will be authorized to so act.

Section 2. The Board requests the Kitsap County Auditor, Election Division, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, to assume jurisdiction of and to call and conduct a special election within the District in conjunction with the primary election to be held on August 5, 2025, to submit to the voters of the District such proposition in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required by the Kitsap County Prosecutor:

Kitsap County Rural Library District dba Kitsap Regional Library

Proposition 1

Regular Property Tax Levy Lid Lift for Support of Public Library Services

The Board of Trustees of Kitsap Regional Library adopted Resolution 2025/03 concerning its regular property tax levy. This proposition increases the District’s levy from \$0.27 to \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, to be collected in 2026. This funding is necessary to sustain public library operations and services. The new levy amount would be used to compute the limitations for subsequent levies as provided by chapter RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be approved?

___ Yes

___ No

Section 3. The Board authorizes the inclusion of information regarding this proposition in the local voters’ guide prepared by the Kitsap County Elections Division and authorizes the appropriate costs thereof to be charged to and paid by the District. The Board further authorizes and directs the Library Director to provide such information, including submitting necessary materials, to the Kitsap County Elections Division and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to that end.

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Page 3 of 3

Section 4. If any provision of this resolution is deemed invalid or unconstitutional for any reason, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, and this resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such unconstitutional or invalid provisions had not been contained herein.

Section 5. The Library Director is authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Kitsap County Auditor no later than May 2, 2025.

Section 6. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Kitsap County Rural Library District (dba Kitsap Regional Library) at an open, public meeting thereof, held this April 22, 2025, the following Trustees being present and voting:

Erik Fong
Erik Fong (Apr 23, 2025 13:32 PDT)
Erik Fong, President and Member

Gina Steiner
Gina Steiner (May 1, 2025 10:19 PDT)
Gina Steiner, Vice President and Member

Marwan Cameron
Marwan Cameron (May 1, 2025 10:46 PDT)
Marwan Cameron, Member

Eric Cisney
Eric Cisney (May 1, 2025 07:43 PDT)
Eric Cisney, Member

Absent
Monica Blackwood, Member

Attest:

Jason Driver
Jason Driver (Apr 28, 2025 15:09 PDT)
Jason Driver, Library Director and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees











Res 2025-03 Prop. Authorizing Levy Lid Lift_Final Draft

Final Audit Report

2025-05-01


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