

LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVIES

LIBRARY & RECREATION (POOL AND PARKS)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why does it take additional tax levies to provide basic services for the Library, Pool, and Parks?

Due to property tax limitations imposed by statewide Measures 47 and 50 in the mid-90s, the City cannot increase its established permanent tax rate, even if supported by a majority of community members. Accordingly, the City must rely on voted local option tax levies to augment its operating budget. These levies are needed for continued funding of quality-of-life services to the community.

How much will the local option levies cost per year?

The Library and Recreation (Pool and Parks) levies will each be 5-year levies at a flat rate of:

- Library → 40 cents per thousand dollars of tax assessed value. For the average home in Stayton this will be \$71.36 per year, or \$5.95 per month, or \$0.195 cents per day.
- Recreation (Pool and Parks) → 50 cents per thousand dollars of tax assessed value. For the average home in Stayton this will be \$89.20 per year, or \$7.43 per month, or \$0.24 cents per day.
- Both levies will only equate to about 5.6% of the average property tax bill. This is less than the 6.30% of the average property tax bill a resident pays for services from Chemeketa Community College.

What will the local option tax levies be used for?

Funding from both the Library and Recreation (Pool and Parks) levies will be used to maintain current levels of service, operations, and assist with capital improvements. Lack of funding from a local option levy will have a devastating impact on the City's quality-of-life amenities.

- Lack of funding from a local option levy for the Stayton Public Library will result in the continued significant reduction of operations, services, and programs. With no further funding, additional library services will be eliminated.
- Lack of funding from a local option levy will result in the Stayton Family Memorial Pool remaining closed indefinitely. The ongoing care and upkeep of parks will be limited and there will be no funding for park amenities and upgrades.

Didn't Stayton voters already approve a tax levy for the Library, Parks, and Pool?

Yes. Stayton's first local option tax levy for support of the library, pool and parks was passed by voters in November 1998. Subsequent local option tax levies were passed in May 2002, May 2004, May 2008, May 2012, and May 2016.

The current levy passed in May 2016 expires June 30, 2021. The Library and Recreation (Pool and Parks) levies will replace the expiring voter approved levy from 2016.

Why vote now?

Failure of the proposed Library and Recreation (Pool and Parks) levies at the May 18, 2021 election will have a devastating impact on Stayton's quality-of-life amenities. The Stayton Family Memorial Pool will remain closed indefinitely. The operations, services, and programs of the Stayton Public Library will not only remain significantly reduced, but additional reductions will need to be made. Finally, the ongoing care and upkeep in the parks will be limited to only the general fund dollars available.