



**WASHOE COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**

1001 E. 9TH STREET  
RENO, NEVADA 89512  
PHONE: (775) 328-2000  
FAX: (775) 328-2491

Information regarding the Library Expansion Fund and proposed Ballot Question

In 1994 the Voters within Washoe County authorized the Board of County Commissioners to implement a 30-year dedicated tax override of \$0.02 for every \$100 of assessed property value to be utilized for acquiring, constructing, improving, equipping, operating, and maintaining library facilities for the County.

The existing \$0.02 for every \$100 is within the current statutory maximum of \$3.66 for every \$100.

In September of 2000 the Board of County Commissioners through Resolution created the Library Expansion Fund for the purpose of clearly identifying the funds received from the tax and directed those expenditures from the fund be limited to costs associated with expansion of services including, but not limited to additional library branch debt service payments, expanded library services, expanded library hours and additional library collections. Since 2000 the Library Expansion Fund has been utilized for staff to expand hours, payment of debt service on library facilities, and expansion of library collections.

The tax dedication period runs its course this year and the Library Board of Trustees has a tax renewal plan as part of their Library Strategic Plan. Information from the Library system is titled Renew Washoe County Libraries and is attached to this memo.

Washoe County as a political subdivision does not need to go through the petition process as outlined in some e-mails and public comment that has been received.

The Nevada Revised Statutes regarding ballot initiatives for local governments is NRS 293.481, and is copied below:

**NRS 293.481 Governing body of political subdivision, public or quasi-public corporation, or other local agency submitting question to voters required to submit certain documents and information to county and city clerks; fee to cover cost of placing question and associated information on ballot.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, every governing body of a political subdivision, public or quasi-public corporation, or other local agency authorized by law to submit questions to the qualified electors or registered voters of a designated territory, when the governing body decides to submit a question:

(a) At a general election, shall provide to each county clerk within the designated territory on or before the third Monday in July preceding the election:

(1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the question; and

(2) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the local government which, if the question is an advisory question that proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in accordance with subsection 4 of [NRS 295.230](#).

(b) At a primary election, shall provide to each county clerk within the designated territory on or before the second Friday after the first Monday in March preceding the election:

(1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the question; and

(2) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the local government which, if the question is an advisory question that proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in accordance with subsection 4 of [NRS 295.230](#).

(c) At any election other than a primary or general election at which the county clerk gives notice of the election or otherwise performs duties in connection therewith other than the registration of electors and the making of records of registered voters available for the election, shall provide to each county clerk at least 60 days before the election:

(1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the question; and

(2) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the local government which, if the question is an advisory question that proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in accordance with subsection 4 of [NRS 295.230](#).

(d) At any city election at which the city clerk gives notice of the election or otherwise performs duties in connection therewith, shall provide to the city clerk at least 60 days before the election:

(1) A copy of the question, including an explanation of the question; and

(2) A description of the anticipated financial effect on the local government which, if the question is an advisory question that proposes a bond, tax, fee or expense, must be prepared in accordance with subsection 4 of [NRS 295.230](#).

2. An explanation of a question required to be provided to a county clerk pursuant to subsection 1 must be written in easily understood language and include a digest. The digest must include a concise and clear summary of any existing laws directly related to the measure proposed by the question and a summary of how the measure proposed by the question adds to, changes or repeals such existing laws. For a measure that creates, generates, increases or decreases any public revenue in any form, the first paragraph of the digest must include a statement that the measure creates, generates, increases or decreases, as applicable, public revenue.

3. A question may be submitted after the dates specified in subsection 1 if the question is expressly privileged or required to be submitted pursuant to the provisions of [Article 19](#) of the Constitution of the State of Nevada, or pursuant to the provisions of [chapter 295](#) of NRS or any other statute except [NRS 295.230](#), [354.59817](#), [354.5982](#), [387.3285](#) or [387.3287](#) or any statute that authorizes the governing body to issue bonds upon the approval of the voters.

4. A question that is submitted pursuant to subsection 1 may be withdrawn if the governing body provides notification to each of the county or city clerks within the designated territory of its decision to withdraw the particular question on or before the same dates specified for submission pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of subsection 1, as appropriate.

5. A county or city clerk:

(a) Shall assign a unique identification number to a question submitted pursuant to this section; and

(b) May charge any political subdivision, public or quasi-public corporation, or other local agency which submits a question a reasonable fee sufficient to pay for the increased costs incurred in including the question, explanation, arguments and description of the anticipated financial effect on the ballot.

(Added to NRS by [1969, 895](#); A [1971, 91](#); [1983, 1119](#); [1987, 354, 695](#); [1989, 1730](#); [1993, 2189](#); [1997, 762, 2784](#); [1999, 2116](#); [2001, 603](#); [2003, 1653, 3193](#); [2007, 2527, 2601](#); [2009, 1269](#); [2013, 644](#))

**NRS 293.4815 Transmission of question to be presented to voters to Secretary of State.** The county clerk, city clerk or other person responsible for preparing the ballot shall transmit any question that will be presented to the voters to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable after determining that the question will be placed on the ballot.

(Added to NRS by [1993, 2665](#))



## **Renew Washoe County Libraries**

### **Expansion Tax Election**

On November 5, 2024, Washoe County voters will decide whether to extend a 30-year tax dedicated to acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, and operating Washoe County Library System. This is a renewal of a 30-year tax, not a new tax. An allotment of 2 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value goes directly to Washoe Libraries. This is not an additional tax on Washoe County citizens. Our goal is to maintain the award-winning outstanding library service Washoe County residents have come to enjoy.

### **Our Plan: Renew Washoe Libraries**

Washoe County Library has a three-phase plan to ensure the future of service for Washoe County residents. The library tax is part of the Washoe County 2022-2025 Strategic Plan as well as the Washoe County Strategic Plan Fiscal Sustainability Initiative.

#### **Phase I Emerge/Educate/Plan (Now)**

Washoe County Library will emerge with information about the need for continued funding. The public needs to be aware and educated about this need, explain what's been accomplished and what will happen next. Information on the plan will be on the library website. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) will be established so residents can determine how this tax has helped improve library services.

#### **Phase II Solidify Outreach (January to May)**

Washoe County Library will meet with community support groups, gain media attention, and raise awareness of the current tax and what it does. Regular reports to the library board will include media reach for all library Radio, TV, and social media.

#### **Phase III Election (May to November)**

Washoe County Library will ask Washoe County Board of Commissioners to place the tax renewal plan on the ballot for November 5, 2024.

Media Blitz/Library Campaign with library staff. Get on the radio, get on TV, get on the news about the great services we provide. Discuss Library Tax to local TV Radio, newspapers, and other outlets. Increase presentations to rotary clubs, neighborhood groups, advisory boards, and more.

Countdown to November 5<sup>th</sup> vote, develop a plan to vote, continue to get library spotlights on local media.