



# LIBRARY LEVY PROPOSITION 2026

## Lift the Library Levy Rate by \$.17/\$1,000

**VOTE**  
**April 28,**  
**2026**

The LOSC Board of Trustees is asking voters to consider a lift to the library levy rate in response to increased costs and demand for services.

### **LOSC's levy rate has fallen to \$0.27/\$1,000**

By law, the library is able to increase its budget by 1% a year without a majority vote. The library district was established in 1998 at \$.50 per thousand dollars of assessed property value. **The library district has never had a levy increase. There is no state funding for library operations and maintenance.** Current library services, building maintenance, and materials can continue with a levy increase.

### **Costs have increased & demand multiplied**

LOSC has been frugal and strategic with its annual funding and reserves. Inflation and other factors have driven up the cost of library materials, state minimum wage, supplies, utilities and fuel.

### **Demand for services outweighs budget**

The number of people served and general operating costs have increased by much more than 1% a year over the last 27 years. LOSC is asking for what it needs to continue services for the next 10 years (\$.44/\$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2026 for collection in 2027).

## YOUR LIBRARIES PROVIDE:

- The equivalent of **\$6.2 million in physical items circulated in 2025**
- **Access to 131,471+ items** including seven libraries of books, downloadables, DVDs, streaming titles, tech, and more
- **Programs attended by 20,719 people** in 2025
- **Free WIFI access – over 22,000 unique devices** accessed library WIFI in 2025
- **Printers, copiers, scanners, computers, and tech help**
- **24/7 High-speed WI-FI**
- **Community meeting spaces** for gatherings & programs
- **Friendly, knowledgeable staff** to help with research, services and reading suggestions
- Support services for **students & homeschool** families
- **Locker pickup** for library materials
- the **Library of Things** to “try before you buy” or only need occasionally. Borrow board games, tech gadgets, tools, etc
- **Passes** to local museums & parks

## HOW WOULD THIS NEW LEVY RATE AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

Local property taxes provide 93% of the library system's operating budget. **There is no state funding** for operations and maintenance. If approved by voters, this proposition would authorize LOSC to restore its property tax levy rate from its current level of 27 cents to 44 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

PROPERTY ASSESSED VALUE	CURRENT ANNUAL COST - 2026	NEW YEARLY COST - 2027 (increase in monthly cost)
\$200,000	\$54	\$88 (\$2.83)
\$300,000	\$81	\$132 (\$4.25)
\$500,000	\$135	\$220 (\$7.08)

*\*Exemptions may be available for qualifying seniors, people retired due to disabilities, and veterans with disabilities.*

Stevens County Tax Relief Programs  
[www.stevenscountywa.gov/20869/property-tax-relief-programs](http://www.stevenscountywa.gov/20869/property-tax-relief-programs)





## WITH A LEVY INCREASE:

- Support current level of staffing and services
- Increased open hours that will include evenings and weekends
- Continue supporting a robust collection of library materials, including physical and digital items, with minimal wait times and online/streaming resources
- Address deferred maintenance and facilities needs
- Pursue opportunities for facility improvement projects

## WITHOUT A LEVY INCREASE:

- Cut staff, reduce open hours, and eliminate services, which may include closing branches 1-2 days a week
- Reduce investment in library materials, including physical & digital items, increasing wait time, losing some resources, and decreasing selection
- Service cuts to address deferred facility maintenance

**Chewelah Library - Colville Library - Hunters Library - Kettle Falls Library  
Lakeside Library - Loon Lake Library - Northport Library**

Question? Visit [thelosc.org/levyinfo](http://thelosc.org/levyinfo) OR  
send an email: [levyquestion@scrlid.org](mailto:levyquestion@scrlid.org)

REGISTER TO VOTE  
[votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov)



Find FAQs & more:  
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