

Information About Measure L (Public Library Funding Charter Amendment)

Summary

Measure L, the Public Library Funding Charter Amendment, was approved by over 63% of voters in the March 8, 2011 election.

Measure L increases the Los Angeles Public Library's share of existing city funds to restore recently cut library service hours.

Measure L provides funds to:

- Restore 6-day-a-week service at all 73 libraries, and eventually 7-day-a-week service at 9 libraries.
- Purchase books. Los Angeles currently ranks last in per capita spending on library materials among the eight largest U.S. libraries, according to the Public Library Association's "Public Library Data Service Statistical Report 2010."
- Increase access to the Library's collections, computers and programs including after-school/summer youth, student homework help, adult literacy and job search programs.

Measure L does not require residents or property owners to pay more taxes or fees.

Measure L is not a tax. While the amount of funds the Library receives from the city is based on a percent of property values, Measure L only increases the Library's share of existing city funds. Measure L funds are subject to audits.

Measure L progressively increases the Library's share of existing funds

Within 4 years, Measure L will increase the Library's Charter-required funding from the current .0175% up to a maximum of .0300% of assessed value on all property in the city and provide the funds needed to restore 6-day and 7-day a week library service citywide.

Measure L will increase the Library's responsibility for the cost of its operations.

For 130 years the city Charter has provided funds for the Library to pay its "direct" costs, which are librarians, books, computers and equipment. The city paid the Library's "indirect" costs including water, electricity, postage, custodial, security and benefits.

Starting two years ago, the City changed this policy and began requiring the Library to pay a portion of its indirect costs in addition to its direct costs. The amount has been increasing every year since. As a result of this major change in fiscal policy, the Library has had to make major cuts, closing Sundays, Mondays and two nights each week as well as laying off staff, reducing the book budget and cutting service.

Over the next 4 years, Measure L will provide the Library with the money it needs to pay all these costs and restore Library service.

(continued)

Measure L reverses recent drastic cuts to library services:

Measure L increase the minimum funding guaranteed by the City Charter to address funding shortfalls that have resulted in:

- Library hours cut 3 times from 2009-2010
- Library service cut from 7 days a week to 5 days a week for the first time in the Library's 140-year history
- Library staff cut by 28%

Measure L is expected to phase in the restoration of services and resources following this schedule:

- 2011-2012: restore service Mondays at all 73 libraries
- 2012-2013: restore service two evenings
- 2013-2014: purchase additional books and materials for libraries
- 2014-2015: restore service Sundays at 9 libraries

Information About the Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library serves people with the Central Library, 72 neighborhood branch libraries and a Website with on-line resources at www.lapl.org.

Budget:

The Library budget (\$150.7 million) is 2% of the total city budget (\$6.7 billion).

Use:

In FY 2009-10, people:

- visited the 73 libraries 16 million times
- borrowed 18 million books and other items
- accessed the Library online 155 million times.

Services

Library services include:

- A collection of 6.4 million books and other items
- 2,300 public computers
- Adult Literacy Centers in 21 libraries
- Online homework help
- Online job search guide and resources
- Programs for children teens and adults

A complete list of library programs and services is available at www.lapl.org.



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY