

**CB 121181 – Seattle Public Library 2026 Levy Ordinance**

**Proposed Amendments Packet**

Select Committee on the Library Levy  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

No.	Short title	Sponsor	Page
1	Central Library renovation	Foster	1
2	Multilingual play and learn and ESOL programs	Foster Juarez (Co-sponsor)	3
3	Community Resource Specialists and badge access	Foster Hollingsworth (Co-sponsor) Strauss (Co-sponsor)	5
4	Cooling, deferred maintenance, and branch electrification	Lin	8
5	Seismic retrofit of historic branch library	Rinck Saka (Co-sponsor)	10
6	Electronic and physical materials and collections staffing	Rinck Strauss (Co-sponsor)	12
7	E-book Peak Picks	Rinck	14
8	Seattle Public Library programming on the Seattle Channel	Strauss	16
9	Improve physical accessibility (ADA) and elevators	Strauss	18
12	Digital skilling for teens	Saka	20
13	Washington State Black Legacy Institute	Saka	21

Amendment 1 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Foster

*Central Library renovation / Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$10 million with the intent for allocation for major renovation of the Central Library*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$10,000,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by completing major renovation at the Central Library. Examples include improvements to the Children’s Area or the Seattle Room to meet current patron needs and use.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$85.9 million for maintenance including \$28.9 million more than ongoing levy support: \$10 million for priority and deferred maintenance, \$13 million for the seismic retrofit of the historic Columbia Branch, and \$5.9 million for increased facility and custodial support.

This amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$10,000,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by completing major renovation at the Central Library; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary

election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ 60,000,000 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$420,000,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 2 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Foster **Co-sponsor:** Councilmember Juarez

*Multilingual play and learn and ESOL programs/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$2.5 million for multilingual play and learn programs and \$2 million for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$4,500,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding multilingual play and learn programs (\$2.5 million) and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs (2.0 million) to additional Library branches.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$218.4 million for operating hours and access including \$22.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$12.6 million for all-ages programs, \$7.7 million for security and emergency preparedness, and \$2.4 million for a new Office of Inclusion and Belonging.

This amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$4,500,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding multilingual play and learn programs and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs to additional Library branches; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$59,214,286 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$414,500,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 3 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Foster

**Co-sponsors:** Council President Hollingsworth and Councilmember Strauss

*Community Resource Specialists and badge access/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$4.06 million for additional Community Resource Specialists and upgraded badge access*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased \$4.06 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding resource navigation with 4.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Community Resource Specialists (\$4 million) and upgrading security badge access (\$60,000) at the Central Library.

Community Resource Specialists answer questions about and connects Library patrons to social services in the area, such as access to shelter, healthcare, transportation, food, and clothing. The additional positions are intended to extend coverage to match open hours and provide additional staffing at high-need areas. The badge access improvement would be a necessary component of a pilot to co-locate a Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) team at the Central Library.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$218.4 million for operating hours and access including \$22.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$12.6 million for all-ages programs, \$7.7 million for security and emergency preparedness, and \$2.4 million for a new Office of Inclusion and Belonging. The proposal includes \$1.2 million ongoing for 1 FTE Community Resource Specialist.

The amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as

transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$4,060,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding resource navigation with four additional full-time equivalent Community Resource Specialists and upgrading security badge access at the Central Branch; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ 59,151,429 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$414,060,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033

for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 4 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

Sponsor: Councilmember Lin

*Cooling, deferred maintenance, and branch electrification/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$15 million for cooling systems, deferred maintenance, and branch electrification*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$15 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by (1) completing the repair, replacement, or upgrades of cooling systems for all Library branches and (2) addressing deferred maintenance and branch electrification.

Climate research shows that extreme heat events have become more severe in the Pacific Northwest in recent decades, including excessive heat in Seattle. The twenty-seven branches of the Seattle Public Library (SPL) provide a quiet, safe refuge for many, including from heat. SPL has worked hard to improve cooling systems across most branches in recent years and has five sites remaining. This amendment is intended to reduce uncertainty about funding for cooling and for other maintenance needs.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$85.9 million for maintenance including \$28.9 million more than ongoing levy support: \$10 million for priority and deferred maintenance, \$13 million for the seismic retrofit of the historic Columbia Branch, and \$5.9 million for increased facility and custodial support.

This amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$15,000,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by (1) completing the repair,

replacement, or upgrades of cooling systems for all Library branches and (2) addressing deferred maintenance and branch electrification; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ 60,714,286 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$425,000,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 5 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Rinck **Co-sponsor:** Councilmember Saka

*Seismic retrofit of historic branch library/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$15 million for a seismic retrofit of an historic branch library*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$15 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by renovating a historic Library branch to improve seismic safety, reduce the use of fossil fuels, and upgrade publicly available space.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$85.9 million for maintenance including \$28.9 million more than ongoing levy support: \$10 million for priority and deferred maintenance, \$13 million for the seismic retrofit of the historic Columbia Branch, and \$5.9 million for increased facility and custodial support.

This amendment is intended to support another seismic retrofit. Seattle Public Library (SPL) has publicly stated that with additional funding SPL would prioritize the West Seattle Branch Library as the next seismic retrofit project.

The amendment would also increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amounts in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated below and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$15,000,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by renovating a historic Library branch to improve seismic safety, reduce the use of fossil fuels, and upgrade publicly available space; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$60,714,286 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$425,000,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 6 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Rinck **Co-sponsor:** Councilmember Strauss

*Electronic and physical materials and collections staffing/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$8.4 million for expanding the digital materials collection and supporting collections staffing*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council's that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$8.4 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support collections by expanding the electronic and physical materials collections (\$7 million) and increasing collections staffing (\$1.4 million).

The Mayor's proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$58.5 million for collections including \$35.43 for physical and electronic materials. This would be an increase of 15 percent from the ongoing funding (\$30.83 million) for physical and electronic materials. The \$4.6 million of new funding would be invested in \$2.2 million for physical books and in \$2.4 million for electronic books and electronic audiobooks.

The amendment would also increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated below and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$8,400,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support collections by expanding the electronic materials (e-books and e-audiobooks) and physical materials collections and increasing collections staffing; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$59,771,429 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$418,400,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 7 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

Sponsor: Councilmember Rinck

*E-book Peak Picks/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$2.5 million for e-book copies of Peak Pick titles*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$2.5 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support collections by expanding the Peak Pick titles in Library’s e-book collection.

Through the Peak Picks program, Seattle Public Library (SPL) provides patrons with access to new and popular books with no holds and no waiting. Patrons borrow Peak Pick titles on a first come, first served basis for a 14-day lending period.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$58.5 million for collections including \$4.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$2.2 million for physical books and \$2.4 million for electronic books and electronic audiobooks.

This amendment would add a recital and also increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amounts in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated below and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$2,500,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support collections by expanding the Peak Pick titles in Library’s e-book collection; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary

election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$58,928,571 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$412,500,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 8 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Strauss

*Seattle Public Library programming on the Seattle Channel/ Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$2.1 million for expanded Seattle Public Library programming on the Seattle Channel*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$2.1 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding Library programming made available live and recorded via the Seattle Channel.

The intention would be to extend the impact and audience for Seattle Public Library programs, such as readings, speakers, and special events, by providing them live and available to stream on the Seattle Channel.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$218.4 million for operating hours and access including \$22.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$12.6 million for all-ages programs, \$7.7 million for security and emergency preparedness, and \$2.4 million for a new Office of Inclusion and Belonging.

The amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$2,100,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support operating hours and access by expanding Library programming made available live and recorded via the Seattle Channel; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$58,871,429 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$412,100,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years' allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 9 Version 2 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Strauss

*Improve physical accessibility (ADA) and elevators / Increase the amount of the proposed levy by \$8.2 million for improvements to physical accessibility (ADA) and for elevators and escalators*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$8.2 million by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by improving physical accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act and by repairing or replacing elevators and escalators.

The intention would be to address deferred maintenance and to make long-lasting improvements rather than short-term fixes.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$85.9 million for maintenance including \$28.9 million more than ongoing levy support: \$10 million for priority and deferred maintenance, \$13 million for the seismic retrofit of the historic Columbia Branch, and \$5.9 million for increased facility and custodial support.

The amendment would add a recital and would increase the maximum annual levy and expected aggregate levy amount in Section 2. *Note: Central Staff will accurately state levy amounts and rates in Sections 2 and 8 in the amended bill after multiple amendments are passed.*

Add recital language in the location indicated and change the language in Section 2 as shown below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor and increased by \$8,200,000 by the Council, should be authorized for investments to support maintenance by improving physical accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act and by repairing or replacing elevators and escalators; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

\*\*\*

Section 2. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2026 through 2032 for collection in 2027 through 2033 respectively. This proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than ~~\$58,571,429~~ \$59,742,857 in the first year and is expected to raise approximately ~~\$410,000,000~~ \$418,200,000 in aggregate over seven years for Library services. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years’ allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the Library levy funding amount are available for other City purposes for which the City’s regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under 84.36.381 RCW from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition’s passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2033 for collection in 2034 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

\*\*\*

Amendment 12 Version 1 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

Sponsor: Councilmember Saka

*Digital skilling for teens/ Invest in digital skilling programs for teens at South Park and High Point Branches*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor, should be authorized for investments to support technology services by providing digital skilling programs for teens offered at the South Park and High Point Branch Libraries.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$38.2 million for technology services including \$12.4 million more than ongoing levy support: \$5 million for upgrading IT infrastructure and 7.4 million for strengthening IT systems and cybersecurity.

This amendment would add a recital.

Add recital language in the location indicated below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor, should be authorized for investments to support technology services by providing digital skilling programs for teens offered at the South Park and High Point Branch Libraries; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*

Amendment 13 Version 1 to CB 121181 - MO Seattle Public Libraries 2026 Levy ORD

Sponsor: Councilmember Saka

*Washington State Black Legacy Institute/ Support contracting with the Washington State Black Legacy Institute for programming and local history curation*

**Effect:** This amendment would communicate Council’s intention that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor, should be authorized for investments to support hours and access and collections by contracting with the Washington State Black Legacy Institute for programming and local history curation that celebrates and preserves the rich history of Washington’s Black community and offers a powerful tribute to Black resilience, leadership, and cultural contributions.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$218.4 million for operating hours and access including \$22.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$12.6 million for all-ages programs, \$7.7 million for security and emergency preparedness, and \$2.4 million for a new Office of Inclusion and Belonging.

The Mayor’s proposed Library levy funding amount would provide \$58.5 million for collections including \$4.6 million more than ongoing levy support: \$2.2 million for physical books and \$2.4 million for electronic books and electronic audiobooks.

The amendment would add a recital.

Add recital language in the location indicated below:

\*\*\*

WHEREAS, by replacing the expiring 2019 Library Levy, Seattle expands access to education and opportunity, promotes equity, lifts up the places where communities come together, and invests in libraries as treasured landmark and spaces for learning and discovery; and

WHEREAS, the Council intends that a portion of the Library levy funding amount, as transmitted by the Mayor, should be authorized for investments to support hours and access and collections by contracting with the Washington State Black Legacy Institute for programming that celebrates and preserves the rich history of Washington’s Black

community and offers a powerful tribute to Black resilience, leadership, and cultural contributions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle intends to place a levy proposal on the August 4, 2026, primary election ballot to replace the expiring levy in order to continue to provide financial support to the programs and operations of the Library for the next seven years; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

\*\*\*