

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT CALLING FOR AN ELECTION AUTHORIZING THE RESTORATION OF THE DISTRICT'S REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO \$0.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the Pierce County Rural Library District, doing business as the Pierce County Library System (the "District") may levy regular property taxes in any calendar year in excess of the limit factor provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW when such levy has been authorized by a proposition approved by a majority of the voters of the District voting on the proposition at a general or special election within the District; and

WHEREAS, costs to operate and maintain the District's services and libraries are increasing at a faster and higher rate than revenues to operate them, in recent years, cost increases have ranged from 4 to 7%, while property tax revenues have ranged from 1 to 3%; and

WHEREAS, the population of the service area of the District has grown by 16% since 2006, but because Washington State law limits property tax increases to no more than 1% more than the previous year plus property taxes from new construction, the District has not been able to keep up with the library service needs of the growing and changing population; and

WHEREAS, voters passed a levy to restore library funding in 2006, and the District has met or surpassed all levy promises with funding that was projected to meet service needs for up to six years, and has stretched that funding for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the District has balanced its annual budget by streamlining, eliminating, reducing, or not offering needed services, and deferring services and maintenance, totaling \$20,000,000 in reductions and saving, and the District projects more significant reductions in the future because costs continue to be higher than revenues; and

WHEREAS, the public's use of and request for library services is very high with a 63% increase in library card holders, 33% increase in the checkout of books and materials, and 79% increase in participation in classes and events since 2006; and

WHEREAS, with advances in technology, the public expects services, books, e-books and materials in forms that increase in costs at a rate significantly higher than the rate revenues are allowed to grow under 84.55 RCW; and

WHEREAS, in order to enable the District to maintain library services for up to five years so it can deliver services that growing and changing communities need, want, and value, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the District deems it necessary for the District to restore its regular property tax levy rate to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2019, and to use the resulting dollar amount of the 2019 levy for the purpose of computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary to submit to the voters of the District the proposition of whether or not the District shall levy regular property taxes for collection in 2019 in excess of the limit factor provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board hereby finds and declares that, in order to enable the District to maintain library services, it is necessary for the District to restore its regular property tax levy rate to \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for collection in 2019. Thereafter, the resulting dollar amount of the 2019 levy would be used for the purpose of computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW. By law, such proposition must be submitted to the voters of the District for their approval or rejection. If such proposition is approved by the requisite number of voters, the District will be authorized to so act.

2. The Board hereby requests the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of the King County Office of Elections, as *ex officio* supervisors of elections in their respective counties, to call and conduct a special election in the District in conjunction with the general election to be held on November 6, 2018, to submit to the voters of the District such proposition in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions, and modifications as may be required by the Prosecuting Attorneys for Pierce County and King County, as applicable:

PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

PROPOSITION NO. 1

RESTORATION OF
REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE

The Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Rural Library District adopted Resolution No. 2018-07 concerning an increase in its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy rate to its fully authorized level of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2019 to provide stable funding to maintain library services. The resulting dollar amount of the 2019 levy would be used for the purpose of computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be approved?

YES☐

NO☐

3. The Board finds and declares it to be in the best interests of the District to have information regarding the aforesaid proposition included in the local voters' guides to be prepared in Pierce and King Counties, and authorizes the appropriate costs thereof to be charged to and paid by the District, and further authorizes and directs the Executive Director to provide such information to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of the King County Office of Elections and to take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to that end.

4. If any one or more of the provisions of this resolution shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution, and this resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such unconstitutional or invalid provisions had not been contained herein.

5. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Pierce County Auditor and the Director of the King County Office of Elections not later than August 7, 2018.

6. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF July, 2018.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Robert Allen, Chair

Daren Jones, Vice-chair

Donna Albers, Member

Monica Butler, Member

Pat Jenkins, Member