

ATTEST: FEB 15 2012

Resolution No. 2011- 294

Birgitta E. Corsello, Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Solano, State of
California

Deputy: Maria Chiola

RESOLUTION PLACING AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING ARTICLE XIV TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE SOLANO COUNTY CODE THAT IMPOSES A TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX FOR COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY PROGRAMS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION ON THE JUNE 5, 2012 BALLOT

Whereas, the Solano County Board of Supervisors finds that the Solano County public library systems provides unique and valued cultural and educational services to their citizens; and

Whereas, in 1997 the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance No. 1551, which placed Measure B on the June 2, 1998 ballot to add Article XIV to Chapter 11 of the Solano County Code, relating to the imposition of a transactions and use tax at a rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) for a 16-year period as authorized by law, for the restoration of dramatically reduced countywide library programs and operations due to the State of California's shifting away of local property tax dollars; and

Whereas, the voters approved Measure B on June 2, 1998 by more than a two-thirds vote; and

Whereas, this funding can and is only being used for public library operations, programs and acquisitions and it expires on October 1, 2014; and

Whereas, this funding supports the public library systems in the county which include the Solano County Library, serving the cities of Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vallejo and Vacaville, through an agreement with Vacaville Unified School District Library District and the unincorporated area of the county with eight branch libraries, the Benicia Public Library, a stand-alone facility and the Dixon Public Library District, also a stand-alone facility; and

Whereas, these library systems have kept the promises made in the 1998 Measure B campaign to restore hours, purchase more books and materials (e.g. CDs, DVDs and magazines and newspapers) and increase children's programs in the years since Ordinance No. 1551 was approved, while continually finding ways to streamline and increase the ease of use for their customers through technology, partnerships and other measures; and

Whereas, Solano County Library (SCL) increased its hours from 204 hours per week in 1997 to the current 448 hours per week in 2011 or 120%; and

Whereas, SCL increased its book and materials budget from \$432,000 in 1997 to \$1,026,000 in 2011 or 138%; and

Whereas, SCL expanded its children's programs from 878 in 1997 to 2,562 in 2011 or 192%; and

Whereas, in addition to regular children's reading programs, SCL, in partnership with the Solano County Library Foundation, the Benicia Public Library and the schools, has encouraged reading and the love of books through author visits, such as Solano Kids Read, in which children

throughout the county read the same book, discuss it in their classrooms and meet the author, which has resulted in 5,000 students participating during the four years of the program; and

Whereas, public usage increased dramatically from 1,270,000 visits in 1997 to 2,042,000 visits in 2011 or 61% as residents use the library for homework assistance, job searches, filing for unemployment, home remodeling and many other educational and informational needs, attend children's reading programs such as pre-school story time and Summer Reading Program, and access literacy programs; and

Whereas, despite the economic downturn of the last three years, SCL maintained service to the public while reducing 20% of the staff, even as usage has continued to grow; and

Whereas, this transactions and use tax funding equals \$5.2 million or 22% of Solano County Library's annual operations budget and without it, the Library faces branch closures, reductions in hours, books and materials, computer and database resources, children, teen, adult and senior programs and literacy services; and

Whereas, the Benicia Public Library (Benicia) increased its hours from 48 hours in the summer months and 52 hours per week during the school year in 1997 to the current 62 hours per week in 2011 or 19%; and

Whereas, Benicia increased its book and materials budget from \$61,000 in 1997 to the current \$138,400 in 2011 or 127%; and

Whereas, Benicia expanded its children's programs from 144 in 1997 to 360 in 2011 or 150%; and

Whereas, Benicia experienced heavy usage both pre- and post- Measure B, and has maintained a steady patronage of approximately 230,000 visits annually over the past 14 years as residents search for information on a variety of topics, participate in literacy programs and attend children's reading programs; and

Whereas, Benicia reduced its employee staffing levels by 24% over the past 5 years in response to budget reductions while experiencing a 12% increase in the number of items circulated from the library; and

Whereas, this funding represents \$600,000 or 30% of Benicia's annual operations budget and without it, the Library faces a reduction in open hours to the public, fewer programs for children, teen and adults, and a reduction in the number of fiction and non-fiction items purchased by the library; and

Whereas the Dixon Public Library District (Dixon) increased its hours from 27 hours per week in 1997 to the current 50 hours per week in 2011 or 85%; and

Whereas, Dixon increased its book and materials budget from \$30,000 in 1997 to \$82,000 in 2011 or 173%; and

Whereas, Dixon expanded its children's programs from 31 in 1997 to 100 in 2011 or 222%; and

Whereas, Dixon experienced increases in library visits from 29,000 in 1997 to 90,000 visits in 2011 or 210% as residents search for information on a variety of topics, and participate in children's reading programs and other activities; and

Whereas, Dixon in 2003 joined the Solano, Napa and Partners automation consortium which dramatically improved access to books and other library materials for Dixon residents; and

Whereas, Dixon reduced staff and its materials budgets and other program and operating expenses by \$225,000 or 20% over the last three years even as usage has continued to grow; and

Whereas, this funding represents \$500,000 or 55% of Dixon's annual operations budget and without it, the Library faces a steep reduction of hours, loss of librarians and other staff, reduced availability of computers and online resources and a sharp decrease in the purchase of library books and materials which will greatly impact the community, and

Whereas, the Solano County Library, Benicia Public Library and Dixon Public Library District need to maintain this dedicated source of funding to prevent library closures, help preserve book and materials budgets as well as computer and database resources and provide programs for children, teens, adults, seniors and literacy learners ; and

Whereas, Revenue and Taxation Code section 7286 59 authorizes the Solano County Board of Supervisors to place a measure on the June 5, 2012 ballot to extend the existing transactions and use tax at the rate of 0.125% for 16 years in Solano County, commencing October 1, 2014, with revenues dedicated only for funding public library operations, programs and acquisitions within the county.

Whereas, an independent citizens' oversight committee will ensure that the funds are only spent on library operations, programs and acquisitions in these Solano County public library systems.

RESOLVED, the Solano County Board of Supervisors authorizes the placement of a measure on the June 5, 2012 ballot to extend the existing transactions and use tax at the rate of 0.125 percent for 16 years in Solano County, commencing October 1, 2014, with revenues dedicated only for funding public library operations, programs and acquisitions within the county.

RESOLVED, the ballot label for the measure submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

"Shall Ordinance No. 2011- 1724 to extend the 1998 countywide library retail transactions and use tax at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) for a maximum of 16 years, which provides local library funding; prevents library closures; maintains collections of books, databases, and other materials; preserves library hours and children, teen, adult, senior programs, including computer training, homework help, family literacy and children's storytimes, with all revenues staying in Solano County, be adopted?"

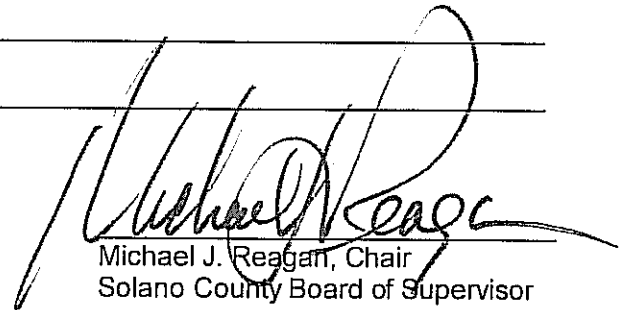
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Passed and adopted by the Solano County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on November 22, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Kondylis, Seifert, Spering,
Vasquez, and Chair Reagan

NOES: Supervisors None

EXCUSED: Supervisors None


Michael J. Reagan, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisor

ATTEST:
Birgitta E. Corsello, Clerk
Board of Supervisors

By: Mary Chiula, deputy
Patricia J. Crittenden, Chief Deputy Clerk