

RESOLUTION 2025-03

UPPER SKAGIT RURAL PARTIAL COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UPPER SKAGIT RURAL PARTIAL COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT CALLING FOR AN ELECTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO RESTORE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO \$0.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the Upper Skagit Rural Partial County Library District (d/b/a Upper Skagit Library) (the "District") may levy regular property taxes in any calendar year in excess of the limit factor provided for in RCW 84.55.0101 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, since reopening of the District's renovated library building in 2021, the number of patrons in the library on a daily basis has doubled and the number of checked out items has doubled each year, and the District has expanded its programming and added new staff and services;

WHEREAS, state law limits property tax increases to no more than 1% more than the previous year plus property taxes from new construction, but the costs to operate and maintain the District's services and library building are increasing at a faster and higher rate than the rate revenues are allowed to grow under state law;

WHEREAS, the District has experienced loss of grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Washington State Library which, together with rising costs to operate and maintain the District's services and library building, will adversely impact the District's budget and its ability to cover shortfalls, continue current levels of service and programming and add new services and programming;

WHEREAS, without additional funding, the District anticipates that it will need to close the library building one or more days per week, reduce staff, reduce funds spent on programming and collections, reduce services to the Concrete School District by reducing classroom visits, field trips, and assistance provided to the elementary school, defer building and technology maintenance, reduce or eliminate certain services such as printing, notary services, laminating and technology assistance, eliminate staff education and training programs, eliminate the District's hotspot lending program, and reduce WiFi and other technology services, among other reductions or eliminations;

WHEREAS, in order to enable the District to continue to operate and maintain the District's services and library building at current levels, including continuing services to the elementary school uninterrupted, and add new District services and programming, such as expanding library field trips and classroom visits to the middle and high schools, 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 2026, and to use the resulting dollar amount of the 2026 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 2026 in excess of the limit factor provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby finds and declares that, in order to enable the District to maintain library services, it is necessary that the District restore its regular property tax levy rate to \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for collection in 2026. Thereafter, the resulting dollar amount of the 2026 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.

Section 2. The Board hereby requests the Auditor of Skagit County, as the *ex officio* supervisor of elections within such county, to assume jurisdiction of and to call and conduct a special election in the District in conjunction with the general election to be held on November 4, 2025, to submit to the voters of the District such proposition in substantially the following form:

**UPPER SKAGIT RURAL PARTIAL COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
PROPOSITION NO. 1
LEVY LID LIFT**

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Skagit Rural Partial County Library District adopted Resolution 2025-03 concerning its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026 to provide continued funding for the Library District's operation and maintenance. The resulting dollar amount of the 2026 levy would be used for the purpose of computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55. Should this proposition be approved?

YES~

NO~

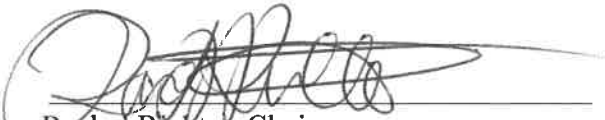
Section 3. The Board finds and declares it to be in the best interests of the District to have information regarding the aforesaid proposition included in the local voter's guide to be prepared by Skagit County, and authorizes the appropriate costs thereof to be charged to and paid by the District, and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

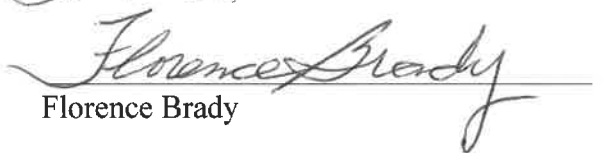
Section 4. If any one or more of the provisions of this resolution shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution, and this resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such unconstitutional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

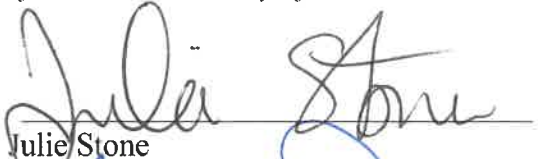
Section 5. The Library Director is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Auditor of Skagit County not later than August 5, 2025.


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

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Upper Skagit Rural Partial County Library District at an open, public meeting thereof, held this 12th day of June, 2025.


Rachel Richter, Chair


Florence Brady


Julie Stone


Stephanie Parsons