When the heart of things closes

Community reactions to times of no libraries

Presented by:

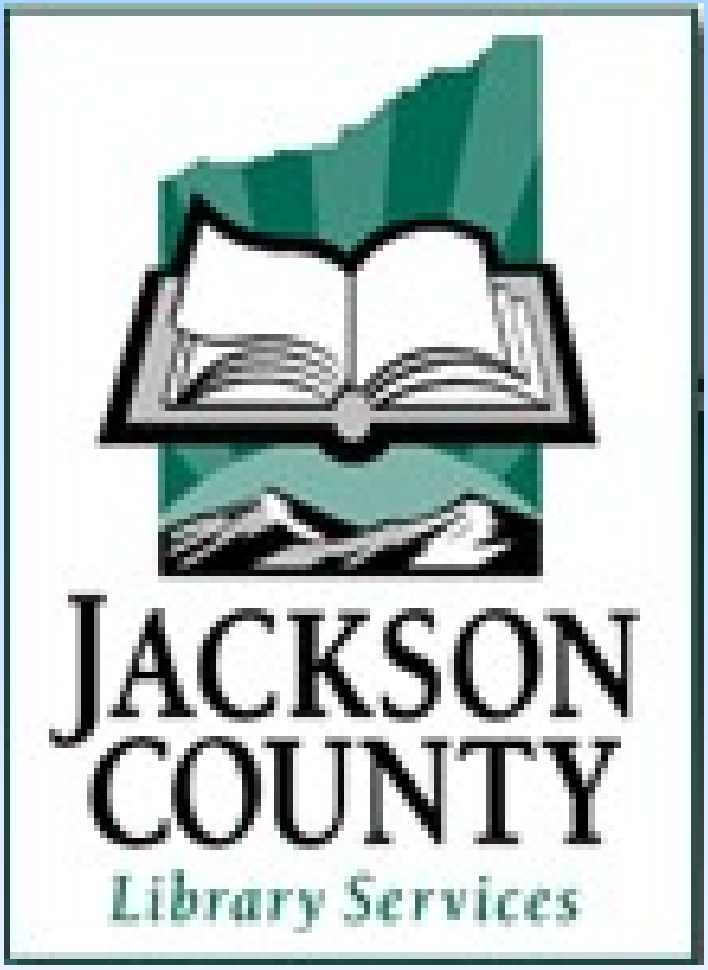
Amy Blossom
Jackson County Library Services

Kate Lasky
Josephine Community Libraries, Inc.

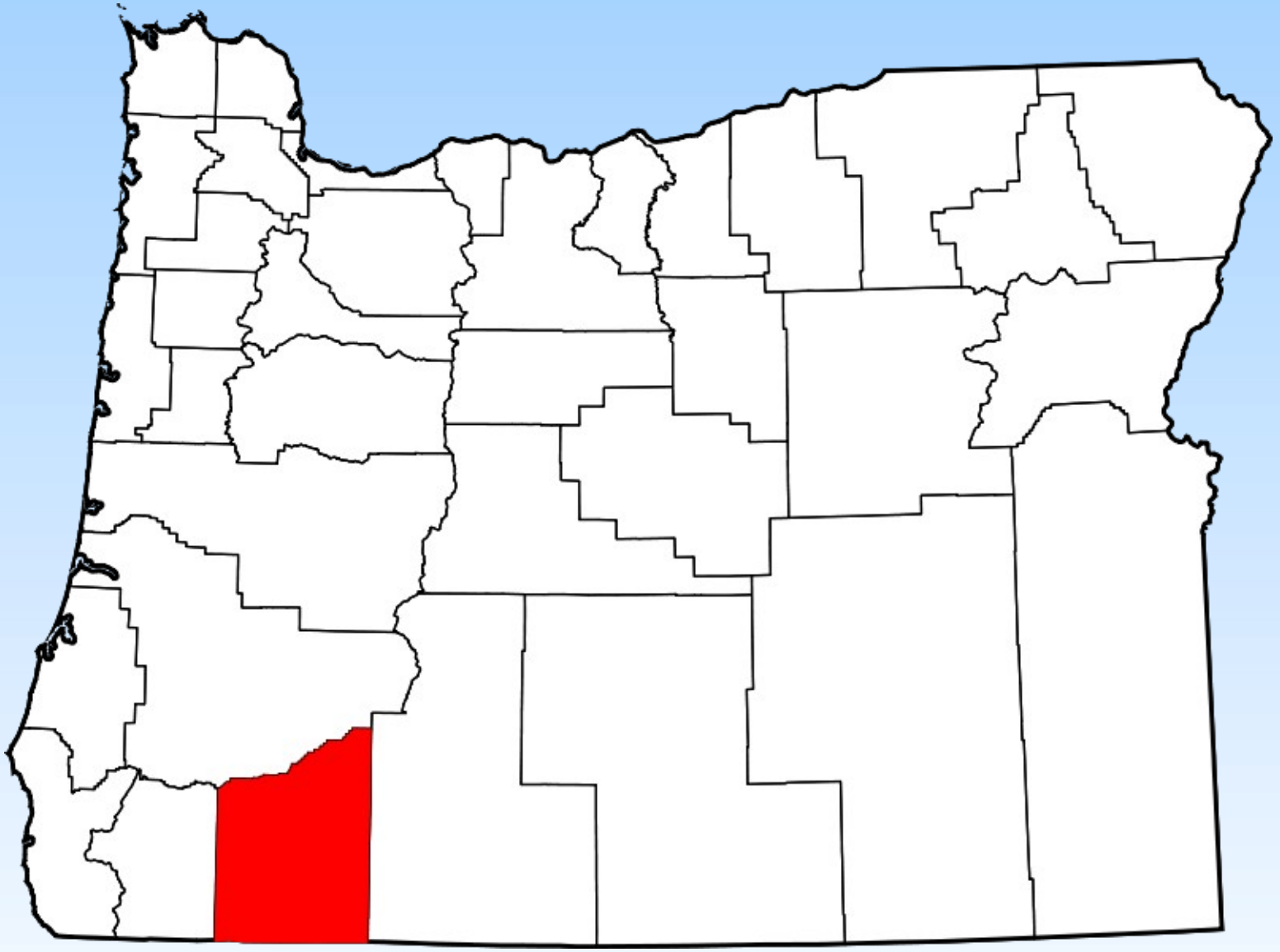
Buzzy Nielsen
Hood River County Library District

OLA conference
April 27, 2012

This presentation is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution United States license. http://www.creativecommons.org


JACKSON
COUNTY
Library Services

Jackson County, Oregon

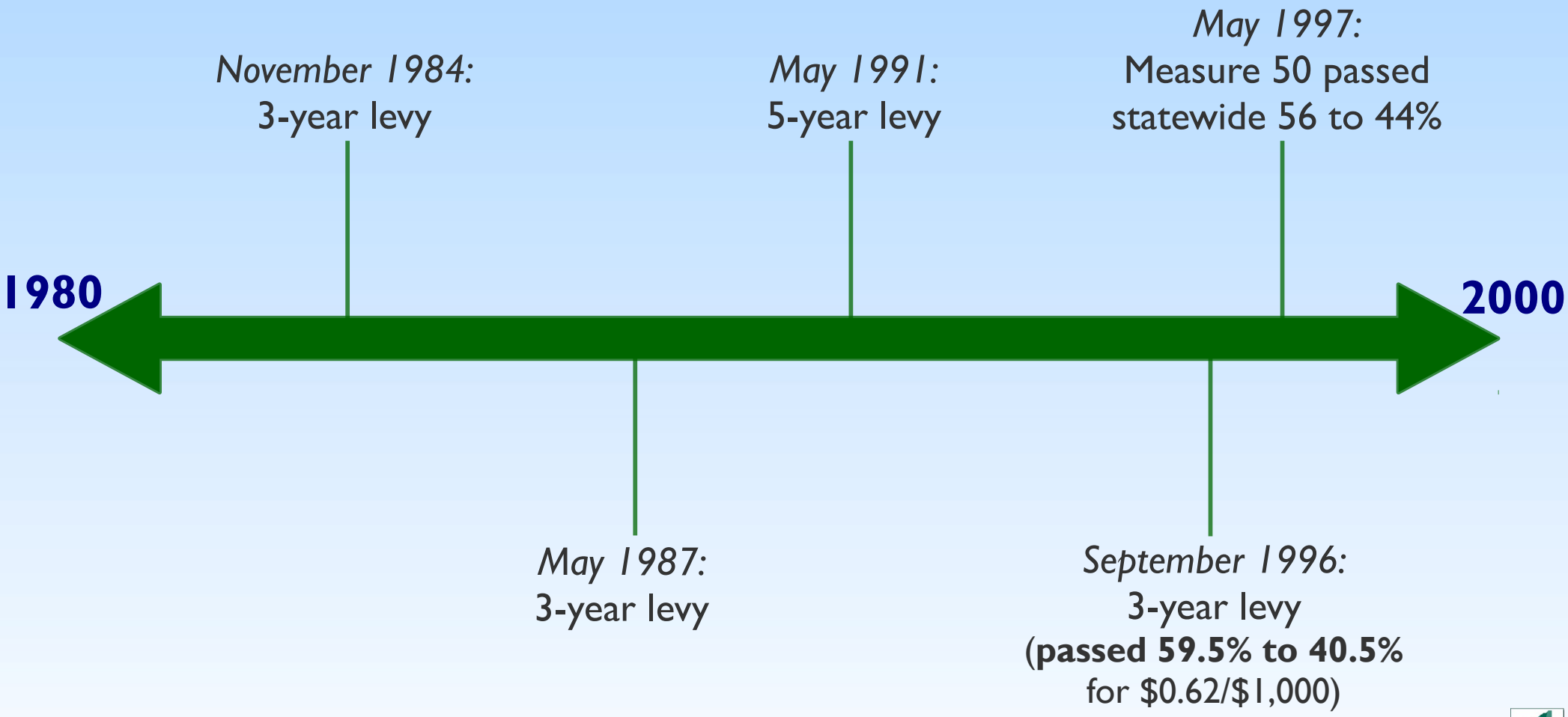


Quick primer: millage rates

> **Millage rate:**
> The amount per $1,000 that is used to calculate taxes on property.
>
> INVESTOPEDIA®

Funding?

JCLS serial levies



More quick primers

Federal timber payments (O&C funds):

Monies paid to primarily rural counties for the sale of timber from federally-owned lands. Paid in lieu of taxes.

Measure 50:

Property tax relief, replaces Measure 47. All serial levies are rolled into the general fund.

May 2000 bond measure

Bond Measure to rebuild 14 public libraries for $38.9 million

Yes Vote – 59.1%

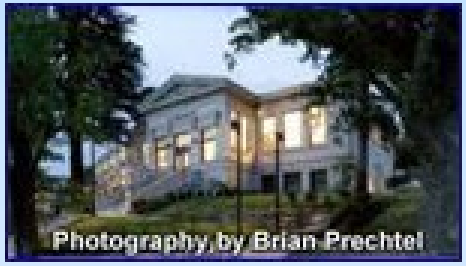
(with 53.5% voting, phew, had to have 50%)

New buildings thanks to the bond

Applegate

Gold Hill

Rogue River



Ashland

Jacksonville

Ruch

Butte Falls

Medford

Shady Cove

New buildings thanks to the bond

Central Point

Phoenix

Talent

Eagle Point

Prospect

White City

Largest library closure in US looms

"Federal funding dries up, leaving 15 branches in Oregon county on brink"

Michael Macor / SFC

Marvin Rosenberg worked with his wife on a mural at the entrance to Jackson County's Ruch Branch in southern Oregon, which is scheduled to close April 7. Chronicle photo by Michael Macor

IMAGES

(03-04) 04:00 PDT Medford, Ore. -- Pat Hardy hefted two book bags stuffed with "cozy murder mysteries" through the snow to Ella Fitzsimmons' front door at the Blue Spruce Mobile Estates trailer park.

"I brought you extra, because this will be your last delivery," said Hardy, who has been bringing the bloodless whodunits to the homebou year-old every month for the last sev years.

Source: May, M. (2007, May 4). "Largest library closure in U.S. looms." San Francisco Chronicle

Protesting at the courthouse

Financial crisis

SHADY COVE JOURNAL

Timber (and Its Revenues) Decline, and Libraries Suffer

Jim Wilson/The New York Times

A plywood plant at Klamath Falls, Ore. Payments from the timber industry faded in the '90s under pressure to save the northern spotted owl.

By WILLIAM YARDLEY
Published: May 5, 2007

Source: Yardley, W. (2007, May 5). "Timber (and its revenues) decline, and libraries suffer." New York Times.

And the libraries closed, April 2007

Library tombstones at the courthouse

County announces libraries will reopen

SOUTHERN OREGON'S NEWS SOURCE

Mail Tribune Discover

NEWS | SPORTS | BUSINESS | OPINION | LIFESTYLE | TEMPO | PHOTOS/VIDEO

Commissioners strike deal to reopen libraries

August 21, 2007

A bare-bones library system would reopen as early as November at half the previous cost and half the hours under a proposal approved by the Jackson County Budget Committee today.

POPULAR

- Feds with
  4/17/2012
- Dismissa

County announces libraries will reopen

SOUTHERN OREGON'S NEWS SOURCE
Mail Tribune Discover Life Daily

New library operators questioned

Curious community members got their questions answered at a Medford library meeting

October 12, 2007

By ***Damian Mann***
Mail Tribune

For two hours Thursday, Jackson County residents got a taste of things to come when the doors to the Medford library opened after being closed to the public for six months.

About 75 residents quizzed the new operators of the Jackson County library system during a meeting in the community room of the Central Library organized by the Coalition for Libraries' Future.

"They certainly sounded sincere," said Medford resident Virginia McGraw, summing up the reaction of many people to the responses from officials of Maryland-based Library Systems and Services LLC. "I want to give them the benefit of the doubt."

POPULAR TODAY
- Feds withdraw LNG pipeline approval - 4/17/2012
- Dismissal of sex-abuse charges clarified - 4/17/2012
- Emergency Services - 4/17/2012
- SOU prof tries to invent a new word daily for 2012 - 4/17/2012

Text Size: A | A | A

Print this Article Email this Article

ShareThis

The Medford and Ashland libraries, which closed April 6 when county funding dried up, are scheduled to open Oct. 24, an the remaining libraries will begin checking out books the following week.

The private company, known by the acronym LSSI, is under a five-year contract to run the libraries, owned by Jackson County.

McGraw, 77, said she's hoping that a program that brought books to home-bound senior citizens will be resurrected. "It's been sorely missed," she said.

Six months later ... October 2007

Kim Wolfe, Medford Librarian, reopens the doors to the Medford Branch Library

LSSI

Founded in 1981 by a techie and librarian

Has contracts with 17 library systems throughout the country

Contracts with The Smithsonian, the Library of Congress and many other agencies

Working with LSSI

Local control

Policies

All made by Jackson County as before.

Selection of materials

Same as before. Jackson County monitors the materials budget.

Circulation

Keeps growing

Programs

Have skyrocketed

Jackson County has oversight on all funds and expenditures

What's it like as an LSSI employee?

Staff

Salaries are comparable to pre-closure

Retirement

No longer in PERS, can join 401(k)

Medical

Most employees can buy into health plan

Holidays

Set by county

Differences

We are managed by librarians as before, but have the LSSI connection to many other library systems and expertise.

LSSI philosophy of having nearly all employees out on the floor and working with the public, including management.

Decisions are reached and implemented quickly.

Much less bureaucracy than we had before.

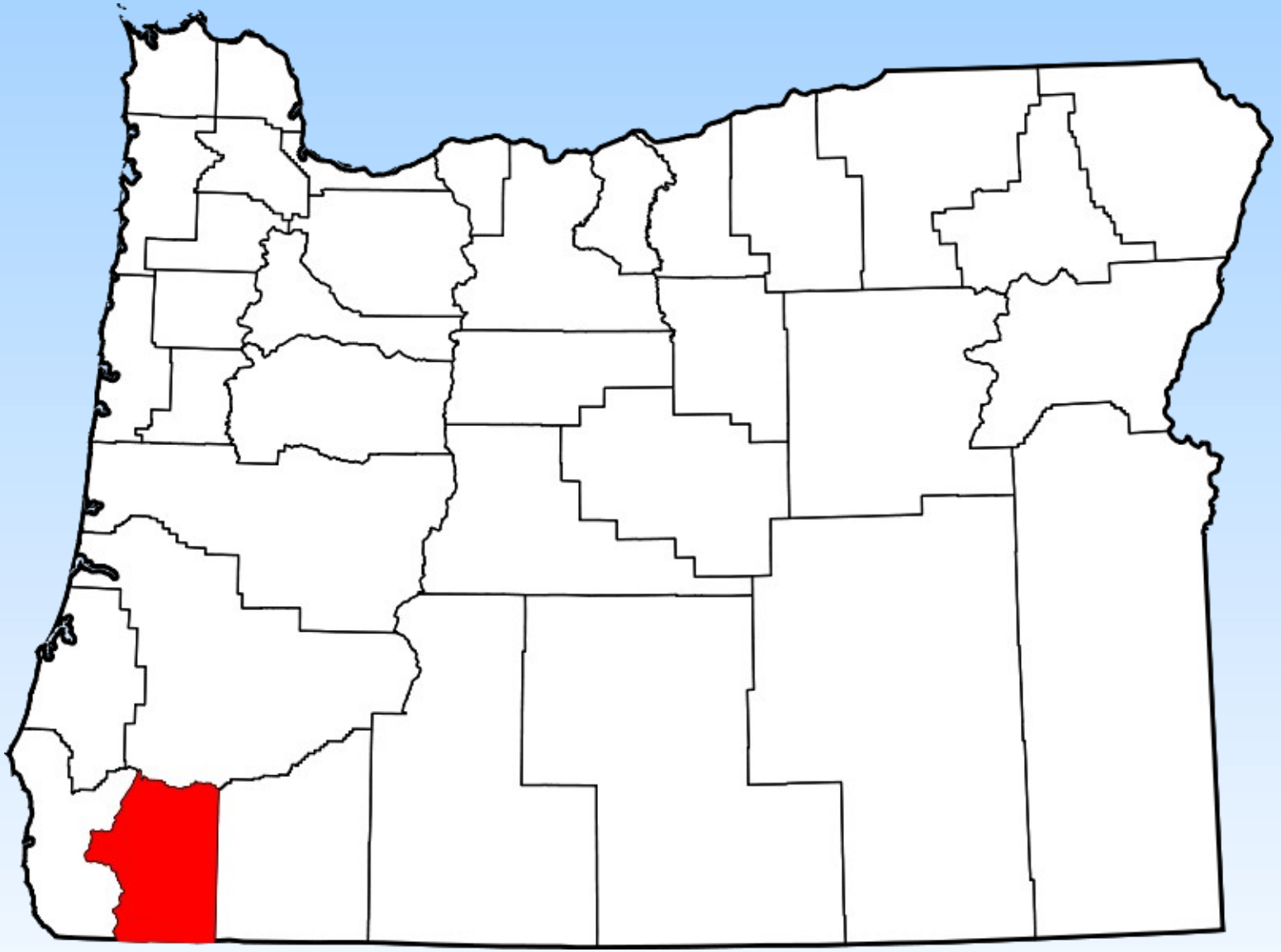
Comparisons

	2005-06	2010-11
Hours	481	310
Circulation	1,444,813	1,594,625
Total annual hours	23,708	15,267
Employees	85.43	61.50
Programs	2,105	3,325

Jackson County
is CLOSED
due to a lack of funding.
The library will remain closed until further notice.
For more information on the library closure, visit www.jcls.org.
While the library is closed:
Payments and questions about patron accounts may be directed to:
Communications about library facilities should be reported to:
Library Business Office - 774-8679
Library Lovers
APRIL 24
Last day to register to vote.
(must be postmarked by that date)
QUESTIONS?
Call Elections Office
774-6148
NOTICE
Beginning March 1 patrons may have no more than 30 items checked out.
LOW ENERGY POWER OPERATED DOOR
DON'T CLOSE
LIBRARIES

Josephine
Community
Libraries

Josephine County, Oregon



Josephine County:
A community that reopened its libraries!

Business model: public broadcast

Nonprofit - board of directors

Membership support

Grants

Business sponsors

Events

HOURS
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
2 PM - 7 PM
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
11 AM - 4 PM
SATURDAY
12 PM - 4 PM
CLOSED
SUNDAY & MONDAY
Josephine Community
Libraries

Political action

Library district effort, May 2013

Political climate

Comparisons

	2010	2011
Circulation	244,947	271,426
New cards	3,684	4,209
Internet	17,786	18,682
Cataloging	8,788	13,222

2011 library use

Circulating 25,000 items per month

350 new library cards per month

1,550 Internet users per month

Program and events

Program and events

Business sponsors

Evergreen Federal Bank

Fast Server, LLC

Hunter Communications

KAJO/KLDR

MRIPA CareSource

VanDusen Design

Partnering

Partners

Coalition for Kids

Experience Works

Grants Pass Association of Realtors

Grants Pass Museum of Art

Illinois River Valley Arts Council

Job Council

Josephine County Fairgrounds

Oregon Humanities

Rogue Community College

School District 7, Three Rivers School District

SMART

SOU Master Gardeners

Southern Oregon Guild

Citizenship

Fundraising

Finance

Operations

Communications

Webmaster

Legal

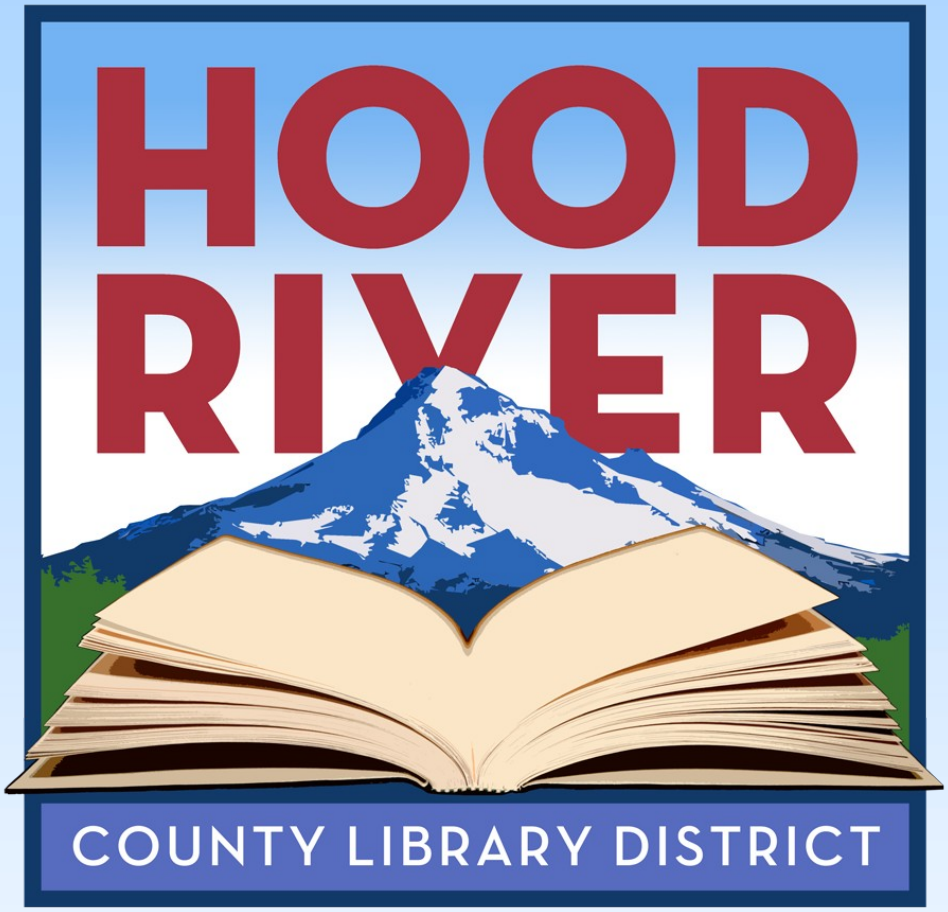
Programs

Average of 170 volunteers logging 2,225 hours a month

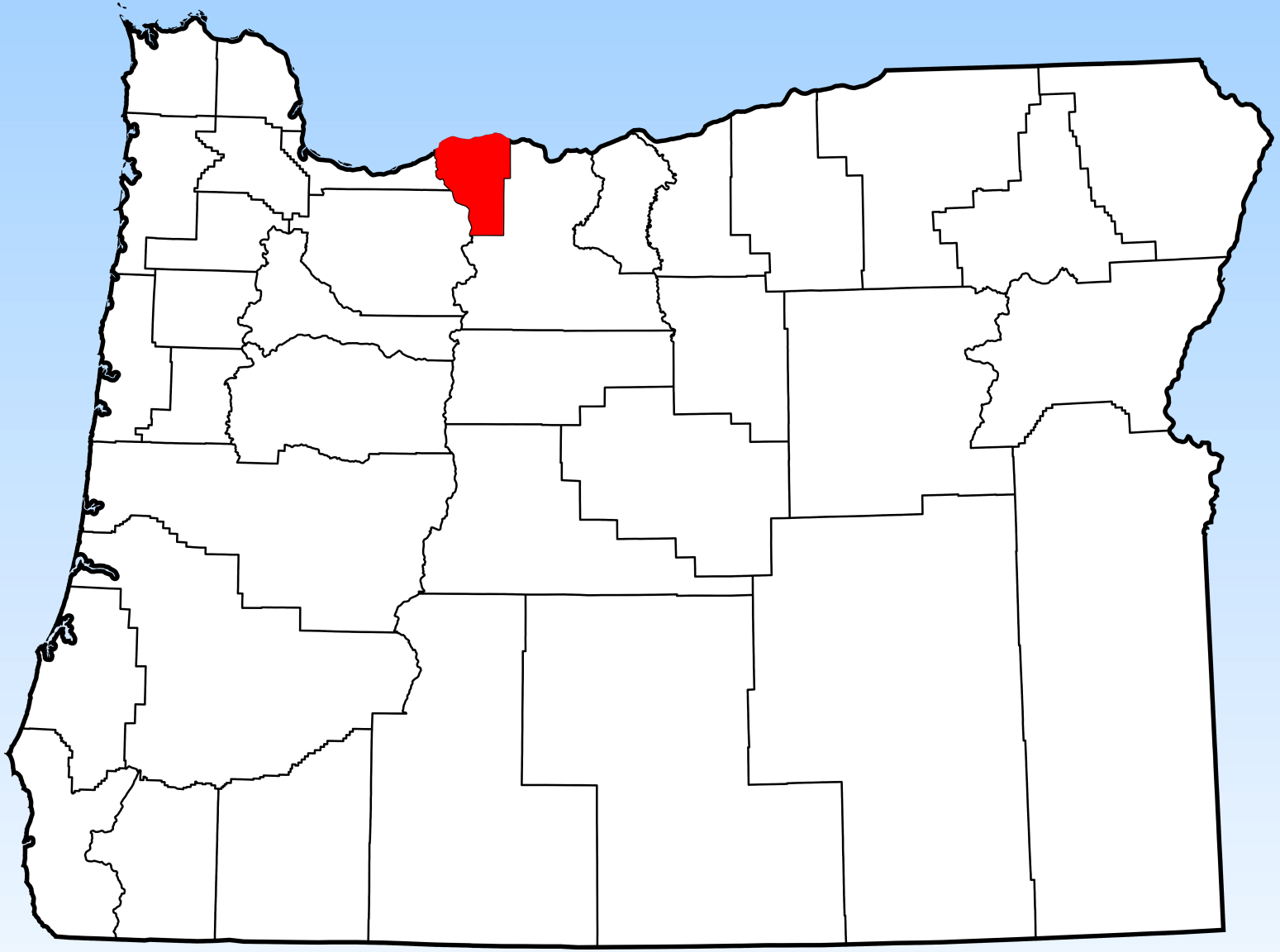
26,680 hours in 2011

$492,780 donated in-kind labor

The future: growth!


HOOD
RIVER
COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Hood River County, Oregon



A library at the heart of its community

Photos c2011 Brian W. Robb. Used with persmission.

Make that three libraries

Hood River

Parkdale

Cascade Locks

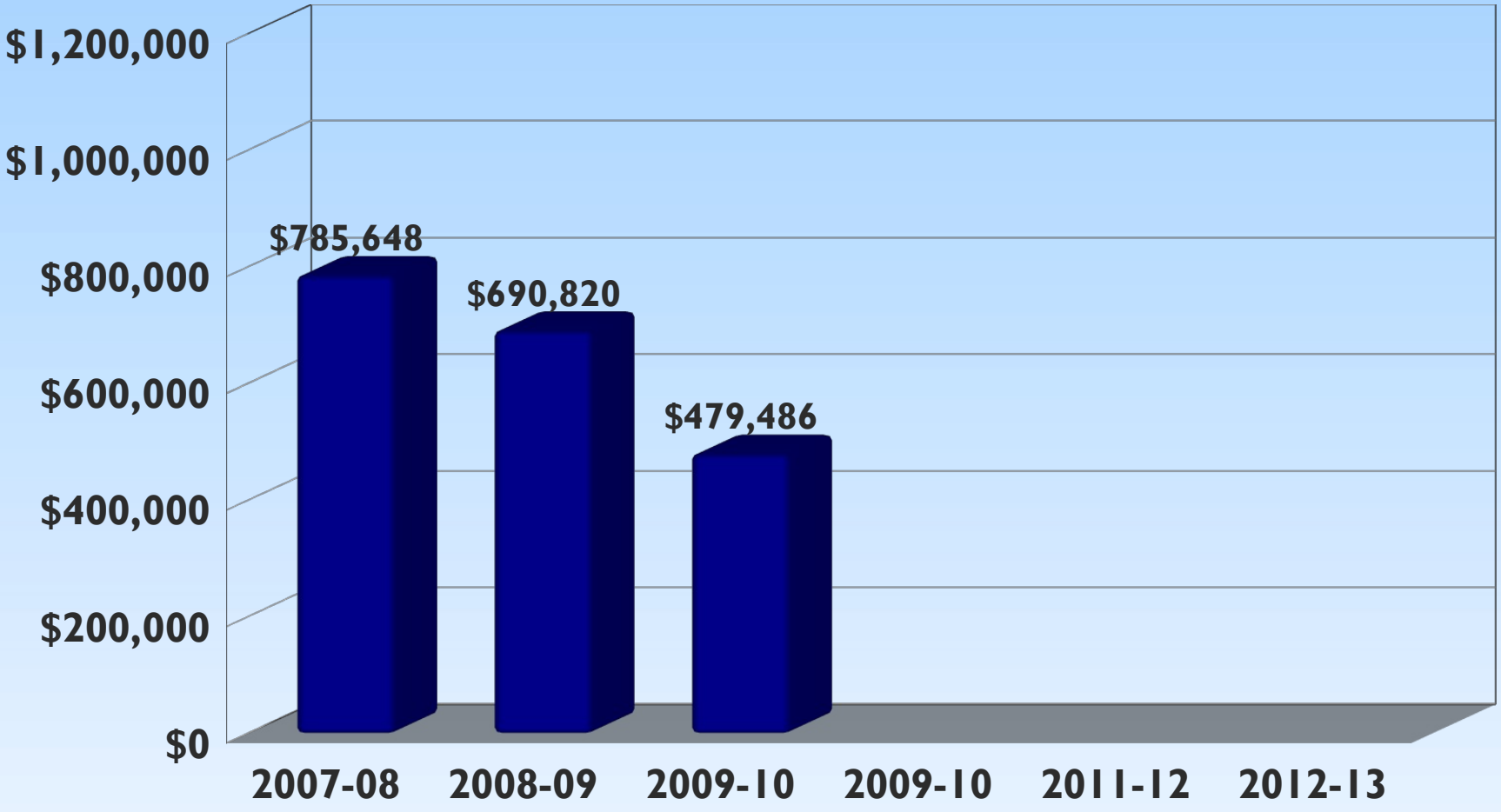
Increasing costs, decreasing revenues

Declining revenue from sale of county-owned timber

Public Employees Retirement System

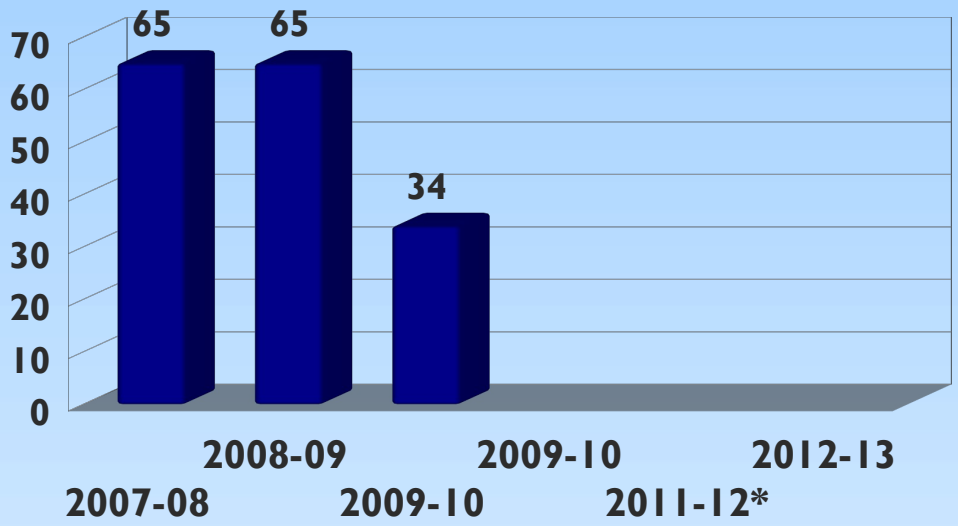
Mounting PERS costs

Death by attrition - Budget

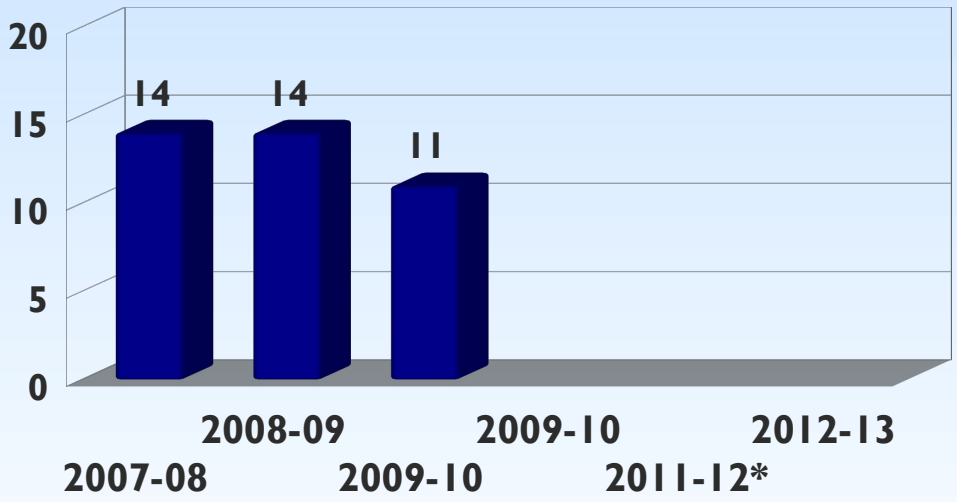


Death by attrition - Hours

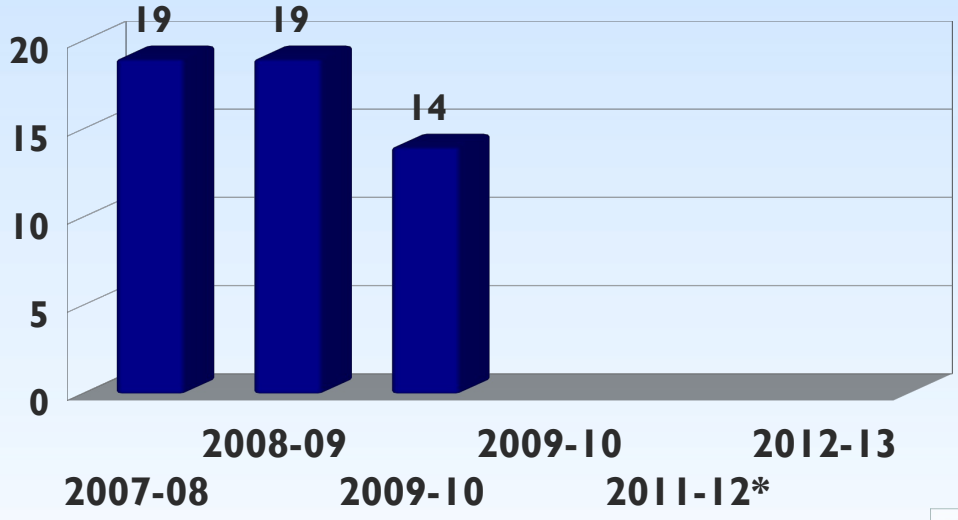
Hood River



Parkdale



Cascade Locks



Judgment day: May 18, 2010

Measure 14-37

Creating a special library district
at the rate of $0.70 per $1,000

Quick primer: library districts

Municipal libraries:

Part of a larger governmental entity (city, county, school, etc.)

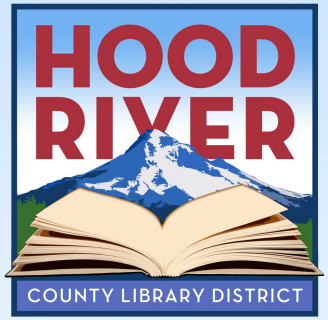
Quick primer: library districts

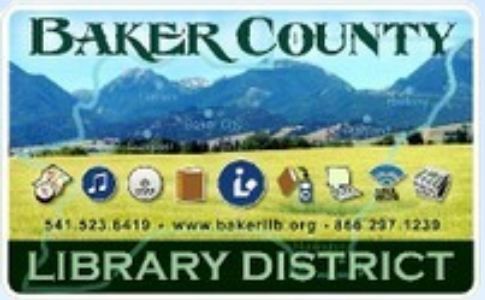
County service districts:

Districts with dedicated tax funding
that are governed by their counties

COASTLINE

MULTNOMAH COUNTY





DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Special districts:

Districts with dedicated funding
and independent governing boards

Judgment day: May 18, 2010

Measure 14-37

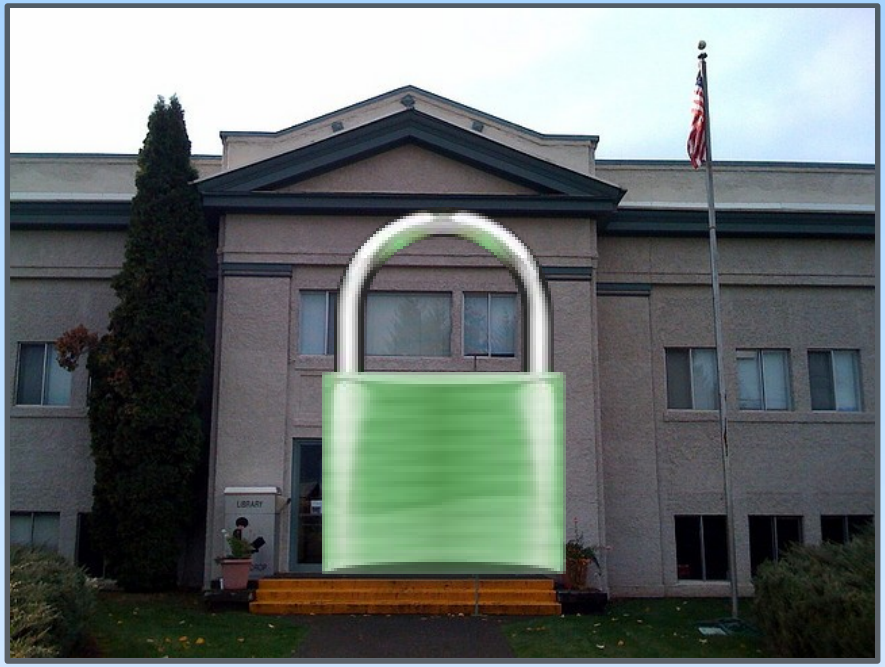
Creating a special library district
at the rate of $0.70 per $1,000

FAILED

54% to 46%

Shuttered

Hood River



Parkdale

Cascade Locks

And we made the news

"Hood River County, OR Library to Close, After Residents Vote Down District"

LIBRARYJOURNAL *Library Journal*
June 4, 2010

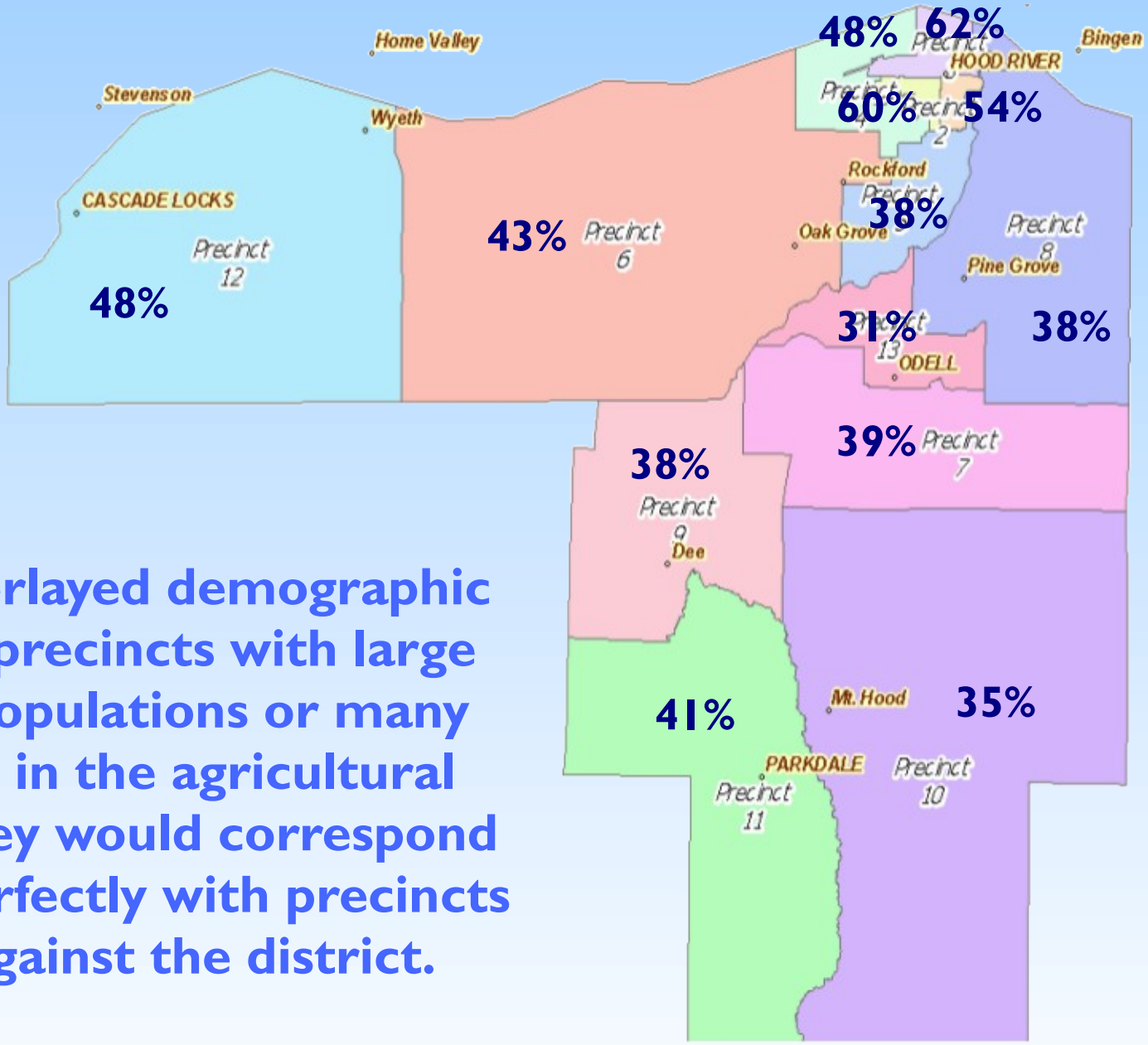
"Libraries in Hood River County Close"

OPB *Oregon Public Broadcasting*
July 1, 2010

"Locking Up an Oregon Library, and Walking Away"

The Oregonian *The Oregonian*
July 21, 2010

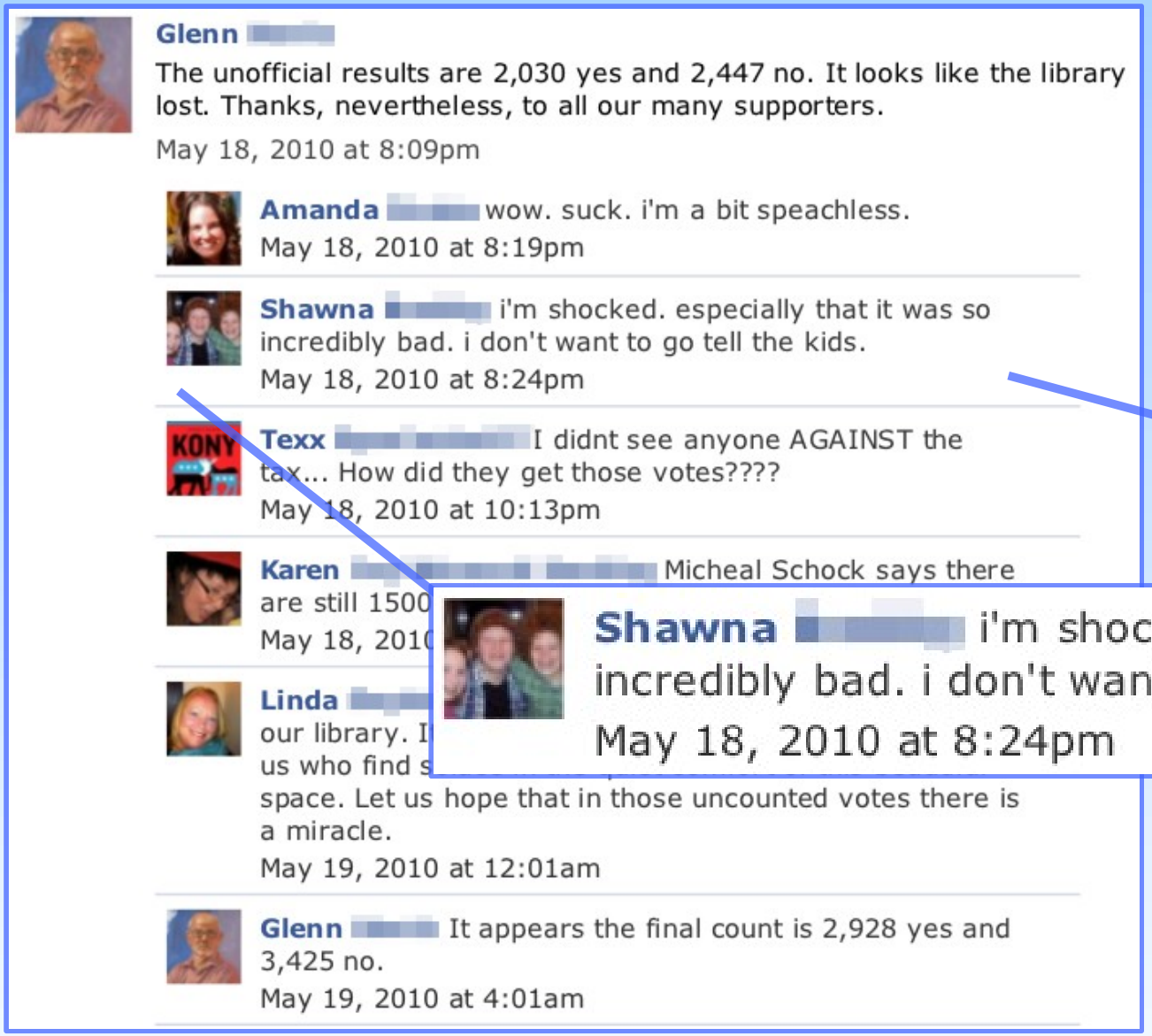
A harsh way to learn invaluable info



If you overlayed demographic maps of precincts with large Latino populations or many workers in the agricultural sector, they would correspond almost perfectly with precincts most against the district.

Source: Yakley, C. (2010). "Summary of voter data"

Harsh reality



Glenn [redacted]
The unofficial results are 2,030 yes and 2,447 no. It looks like the library lost. Thanks, nevertheless, to all our many supporters.
May 18, 2010 at 8:09pm

Amanda [redacted] wow. suck. i'm a bit speachless.
May 18, 2010 at 8:19pm

Shawna [redacted] i'm shocked. especially that it was so incredibly bad. i don't want to go tell the kids.
May 18, 2010 at 8:24pm

Texx [redacted] I didnt see anyone AGAINST the tax... How did they get those votes????
May 18, 2010 at 10:13pm

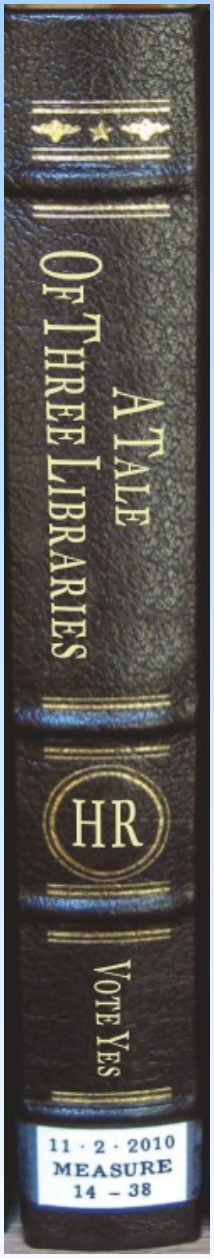
Karen [redacted] Micheal Schock says there are still 1500
May 18, 201

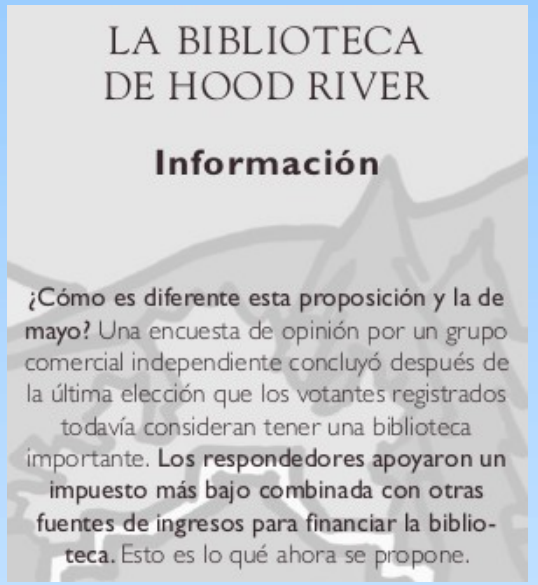
Linda [redacted]
our library. I
us who find s
space. Let us hope that in those uncounted votes there is a miracle.
May 19, 2010 at 12:01am

Glenn [redacted] It appears the final count is 2,928 yes and 3,425 no.
May 19, 2010 at 4:01am

Shawna [redacted] i'm shocked. especially that it was so incredibly bad. i don't want to go tell the kids.
May 18, 2010 at 8:24pm

Campaign





"I voted against the first library measure because it was simply too expensive. Even on a fixed income, however, this is a measure I can support."

- Mildred Smith, 65-year Hood River County resident

Salvation: November 2, 2010

Measure 14-39

Creating a special library district
at the rate of $0.39 per $1,000

PASSED

53% to 47%

Salvation: November 2, 2010

Measure 14-39

Creating a special library district at the rate of $0.39 per $1,000

PASSED

53% to 47%

Measure 14-37

Creating a special library district at the rate of $0.70 per $1,000

FAILED

54% to 46%

Hard decisions

What services can and can't we provide, now and in the future?

Should we borrow against future tax revenue in order to open in July?

Should we rehire employees of the previous county-run library?

What does the community want its libraries to look like in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years?

Should we reopen all three branches?

Oh by the way, you're responsible for all of these things now

Human resources

Maintenance

Finance

Information technology

Legal services

Intergovernmental agreements

Administration

Policies

Mission, vision, and values

Meeting room

Volunteer

Public records

Code of conduct

Board governance

Employee health care benefits

Library director evaluation

Collection development

Privacy

Personnel

Exhibits

Personal services

Intellectual property

Financial management

Strategic goals

Public contracting

Internet and computer use

Library card

HRCLD is, in many ways, more like LSSI or JCLI than the previous county-run library.

Personnel differences

	County	District
Retirement	PERS	403(b)
Unionized?	Yes	No
Health insurance	Negotiated	Monthly caps
Step increases	Automatic	Merit-based

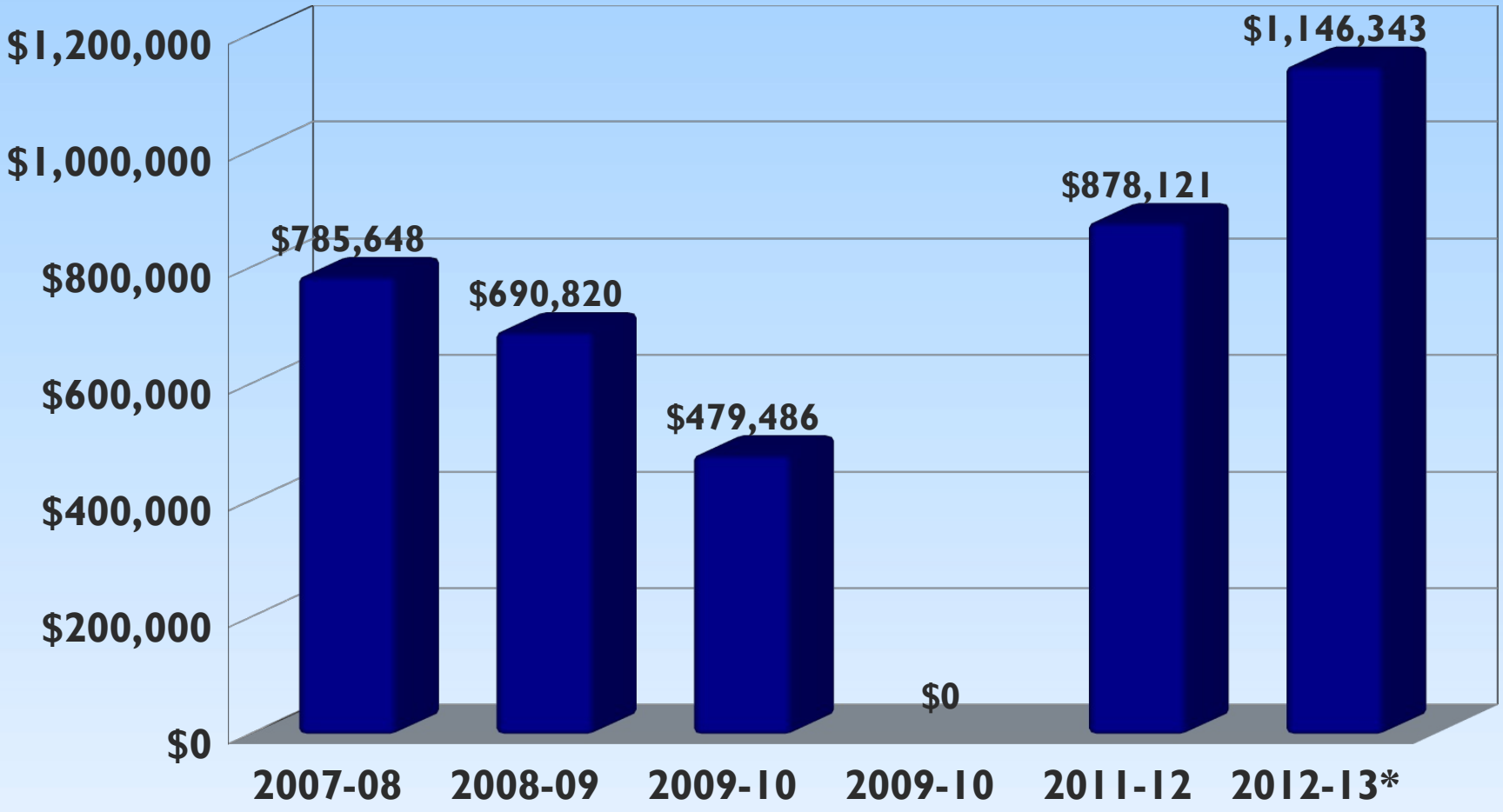
Increasing costs, decreasing revenues

Declining revenue from sale of county-owned timber

Public Employees Retirement System

Mounting PERS costs

We're doing all right - Budget

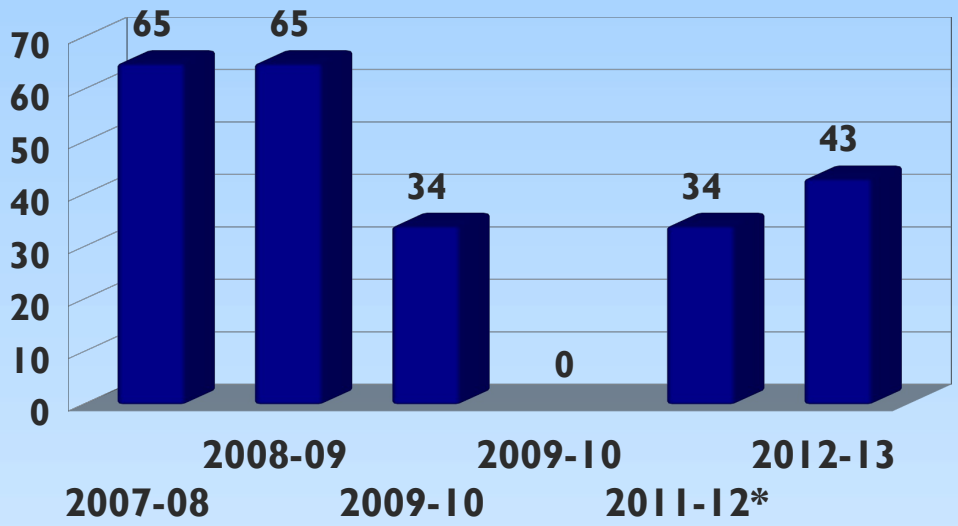


Over 20% of the 2011-12 budget was grants and donations.
One-third of the 2012-13 budget is carryover.
Carryover is anticipated to be 50-75% higher than budgeted.

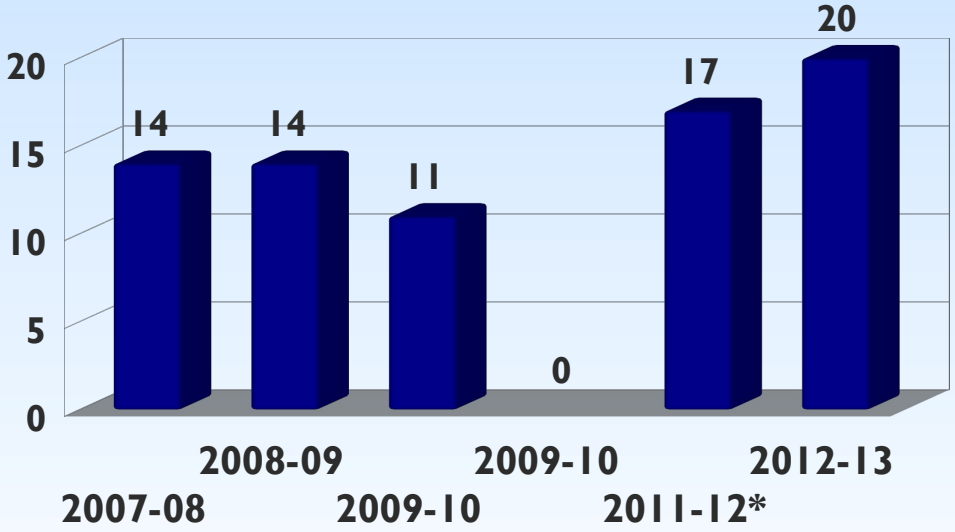
*Amount proposed to Budget Committee

We're doing all right - Hours

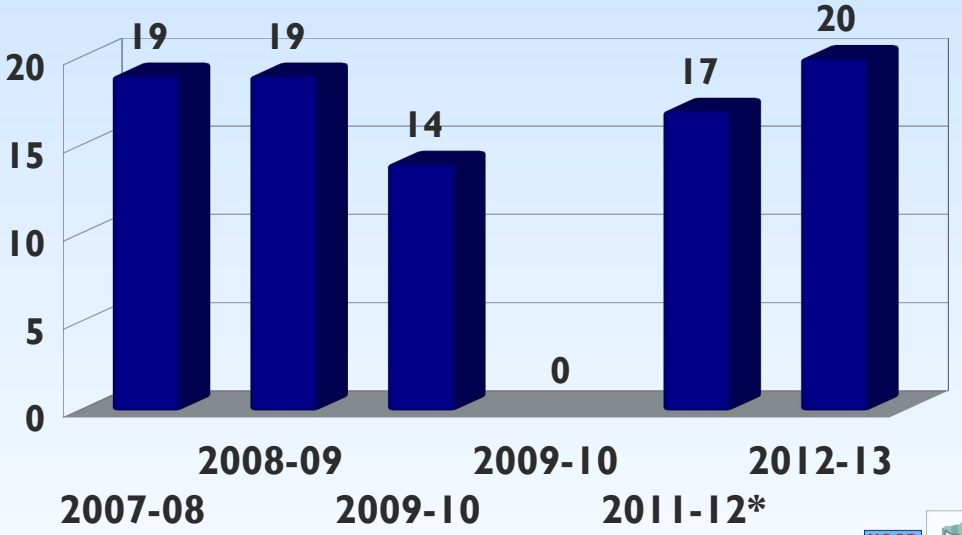
Hood River



Parkdale



Cascade Locks



*2011-12 hours figured are averaged as hours increased in January.

And we're reaching out

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

GORGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

The Next Door

hood river county chamber of commerce

Oregon Child Development Coalition

INDEPENDENT EMPLOYEE-OWNED Full Sail BREWING COMPANY HOOD RIVER, OREGON STOKED TO BREW. BREWED TO STOKE.

Hood River County THE HISTORY MUSEUM Celebrate the Past Preserve the Future

WAUCOMA Bookstore

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

BOOK STOP

Hood River County SCHOOL DISTRICT

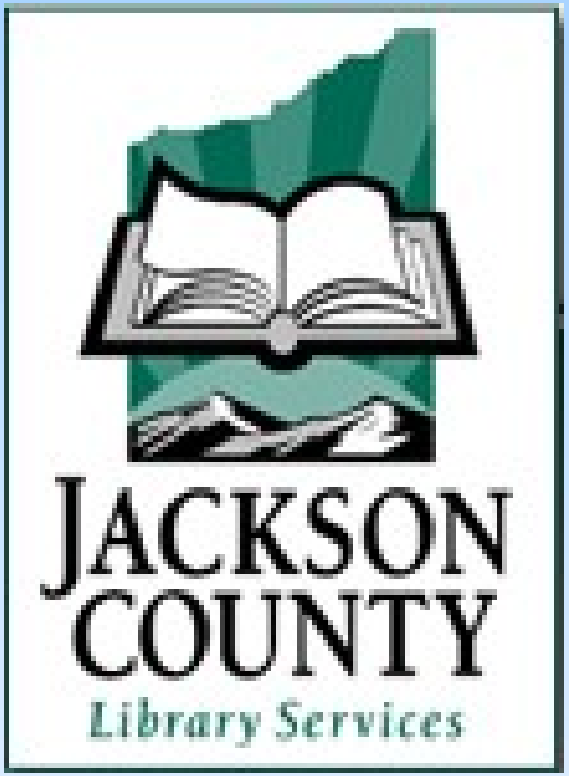
Hood River County H R C Commission on Children & Families

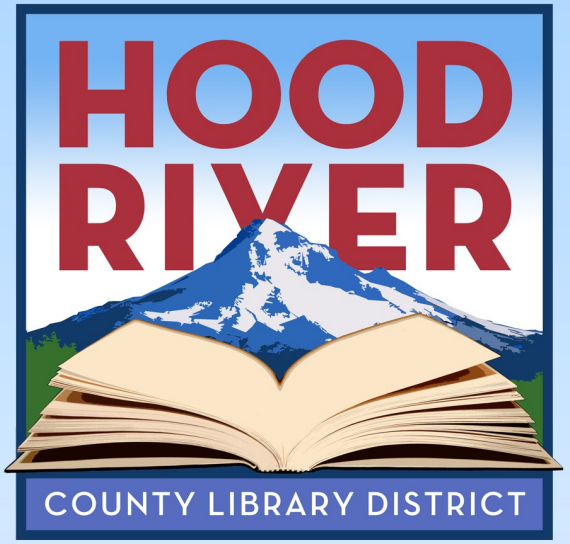
HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Libraries

Three crises, three responses





Takeaways

Understand how your library, and the organizational unit to which it belongs, is funded and budgeted.

Libraries are in demand.

Our communities found ways to reopen ours.

We are open again, providing critical and wanted public service, regardless of our libraries' chosen structures.

We are all still your colleagues.

Different communities may create different models.

New libraries may create new service models.

Outreach. Outreach. Outreach.

Partnerships. Partnerships. Partnerships.

Foster engagement and buy-in from your community.

Step beyond the physical and social bounds of your library in doing so.

Don't let a huge cut or even a closure be your sign that you're not properly engaging your community.

Thank you

View this presentation on NW Central:

http://www.nwcentral.org

This presentation was made using open source software:

Linux Mint
Operating system

LibreOffice Impress
Presentation program

Chromium
Web browser

GIMP
Image editor

Shutter
Screenshot utility