

LAC Oversight: Performance against Requirements of Measures O, Q and D

Background

Library funding comes from the General Fund, Measure Q, and Measure D

- General Purpose Fund: The unrestricted revenue from miscellaneous taxes, fees and service charges
- Measure Q Fund: Approved in 2004 as an extension of Measure O, which was enacted in 1994. Measure Q is the restricted parcel tax revenue from the Library Services Retention and Enhancement Act, levied on real property in Oakland. The revenue may only be used in support of Library Services in Oakland. Measure Q sunsets in 2024
- Measure D: Approved in 2018, Measure D is an additional restricted parcel tax revenue from the Oakland Public Library Preservation Act, levied on real property in Oakland. The revenue may only be used in support of Library Services in Oakland. Measure D sunsets in 2038
- These measures require a minimum appropriation from the general fund which can only be reduced by the same % as any non-safety budget cuts that are required in an extreme fiscal emergency. For more detail, see <https://oaklandlibrary.org/sites/default/files/lac/2020-07-27/LAC%20Attachment%20B%20-%20July%2027%2C%202020.pdf>

A key role of the LAC is to ensure these funds are being used as the resolutions intended; that taxpayers are getting what they voted for. Below is a summary to facilitate a discussion on performance vs. the funds' requirements, and implications for a 2024 ballot proposition which would replace measure Q.

Lessons Learned in LAC's Oversight Role

1. Library is delivering against the commitments of the parcel tax(es)
2. In future parcel taxes
 - a. The general fund contribution should be indexed to inflation, just like the parcel tax
 - b. While the parcel tax shouldn't cover facility maintenance, there needs to be an LAC strategy to ensure council is providing adequate resources
 - c. There should not be a reserve fund (there was one in Q but not D)

See below for more detail

Parcel Tax Requirements – Measure O (initial); <i>Measure Q in italics; MEASURE D IN ALL CAPS</i>	Performance	Thoughts for New Ballot Measure
<p>Purpose: The tax is solely for the purpose of raising revenue necessary to retain and enhance library services in the City of Oakland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met per audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel tax measures are critical to providing services expected by patrons • City general fund covers basics like utilities, maintenance, custodial, security, city attorney fees – and library services would be severely limited without the parcel taxes.
<p>Use of Proceeds: Measures O/Q/D</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep neighborhood libraries open a minimum of 5 days per week (<i>6 days per week and increase weekend hours</i>) 2. Retain availability of library services at Main Library 7 days per week 3. Enhance and expand library collections, <i>including acquisition of new books and materials AND E-RESOURCES, E-BOOKS, AND STREAMING MEDIA</i> 4. <i>Continue to Provide</i> educational and cultural programs for youth in every library, <i>including after school tutoring and literacy and children’s programs</i> 5. Expand library based programs in support of literacy, lifelong learning, and information technology 6. Operate an African-American museum and library program 7. <i>Increase joint educational activities with local schools, including librarian services</i> 8. <i>Retain children’s librarians in every library facility</i> 	<p>Availability & Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 branches open 6 days/week • 3 branches are open 7 days/week • 81st Avenue Library open 7 days a week. • AAAMLO expanded to six day service. Added a Branch Manager position. • Added two full-time librarians to work on OUSD partnerships and school support. • In addition to a children’s librarian at every facility, there are assigned teen librarians for all branches and renovated teen spaces. • Post Covid – only city service fully open to public <p>Expanded Materials & Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website • Self-check machines and RFID at all locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, library has delivered on the expectations set out in Measures Q and D

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<p>9. <i>Operate the new joint school-public library in East Oakland</i></p> <p>10. <i>Upgrade and enhance information technology in all libraries and improve access to computers and technology in the libraries</i></p> <p>11. <i>Support after-school homework programs FOR CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS</i></p> <p>12. <i>Support teen programs</i></p> <p>13. COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF LIBRARY PROGRAMS</p> <p>14. FURNITURE, FIXTURE AND EQUIPMENT COSTS TO ENHANCE DIRECT LIBRARY SERVICES</p> <p>15. NON-STRUCTURAL INTERIOR LIBRARY MAKEOVERS TO SUPPORT LEARNING LABS, MAKERSPACES, AND SPECIALIZED AREAS...TO CREATE A MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT AND ALLOW LIBRARY TO KEEP UP WITH CHANGING TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY NEEDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased new e-resources and new catalog • Increased purchases of e-books and streaming content through Kanopy, Hoopla and Overdrive • Purchased “share the love” books and hosting “PlayCafe” for pre-K early learners. <p>New Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a division for “Lifelong Learning” at Main • Provide laptops, Chromebooks and hotspots for check out. • Purchased online “real time” multilingual tutoring service Tutor.com • Created new division “East Oakland Engagement Team” for outreach to youth through bike repair, decoration and programs. <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovated or facility improvements to West, Asian, Brookfield, Chavez, Dimond, Eastmont, Elmhurst, Lakeview, MLK, Tool Lending, Main. • Installed security camera system at Main and Melrose 	

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Minimum Library Appropriation Prerequisite: City Council may collect this tax only if the General Fund appropriation for Library services is no lower than GF appropriation in FY91-92, which was \$7.8M in FY20-01, which was \$9.1M IN FY 17-18, WHICH WAS \$12,992,267.	In FY20-21 funding fell slightly below FY17-18 because of emergency budget cuts driven by COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep funding at a standard dollar amount (having it as % of GF is risky) but index to inflation, just like the ballot measure is indexed • This approach ensures stable, predictable funding for OPL
Audit: City Auditor will perform annual audit	In compliance. Audits have to cover every year's activities, but they don't have to be done annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable for each audit to cover multiple (~ 2 to 3) years
<i>Reserve Fund – shall be maintained at 5% of total parcel tax collected in prior year</i>	Only part of Q, and has been met. It amounts to ~ \$600K annually, but if the funds are used they have to be immediately replenished so it's very ineffective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not include in future ballot propositions (it's not in D)