



2026 LIBRARY LEVY PROPOSITION

Restore the Library Levy rate to \$0.45/\$1,000

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) last asked voters to approve a levy lid lift in 2010. At that time, voters approved a rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. State law limits the Library's annual property tax revenue growth to 1% per year, which has not kept up with rising costs and inflation.

Over the past 15 years, the levy rate has fallen to \$0.28. During this time, NOLS has worked within these financial limits while stretching resources to meet community needs.

The NOLS Board of Trustees is now asking voters to restore the library levy rate to \$0.45. Libraries are allowed to request a levy rate up to \$0.50, but NOLS is asking for what it needs, not the maximum allowed. In today's market, a levy rate of \$0.45 will provide funding to support current services and will sustain the system into the future.



Local property taxes provide nearly 90% of the NOLS operating budget. Inflation and other factors have driven up the cost of library materials, staff wages, supplies, utilities, and insurance. Despite lowering its budget from 2025, NOLS anticipates using nearly \$1.5 million in reserves to maintain operations and bridge the 2026 shortfall.

If the levy rate is not restored, NOLS will need to reduce hours, staffing, and services in 2027.



**Library Use
in 2025:**



993,197
Checkouts
& Renewals



312,669
Visits to the
Library



25,226
Event
Attendees



46,696
Computer
Sessions

Library Funding Lags Behind Rising Property Values

Clallam County	2011	2026	Change
Taxable Assessed Value	\$8,292,700,000	\$17,256,940,521	108%
Library Taxes Collected	\$4,146,378	\$4,894,977	18%

**What would be funded
by the levy?**



Sequim Library construction is NOT funded by levy revenue. Like most capital projects at NOLS, grants, donations, and timber revenue from DNR-managed trust lands will cover the cost of the new facility.

A YES VOTE MEANS:

- Continuing current levels of open hours and staffing.
- Maintaining a robust collection of library materials, minimal wait times, and online/streaming resources.
- Addressing essential maintenance needs, enhancing facilities, and improving public access to technology.
- Increasing programs and outreach activities for all ages, including support for early learning and literacy.

A NO VOTE MEANS:

- Reducing open hours, staffing, and services.
- Decreasing the budget for library materials, including physical and digital items, causing longer wait times and less selection.
- Delaying maintenance, minimizing facility upkeep, and using aging or outdated technology.
- Cutting programs and outreach activities for all ages.

Current Annual Taxes on a Property in Clallam County

Example Home	2011	2026	Change
Property Value	\$246,599	\$476,526	93%
Library Taxes	\$123	\$135	10%

How would this new levy rate affect my property taxes?

If approved by voters, the library levy rate in 2027 would be restored from its current level of \$0.28 to \$0.45 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Exemptions are available for qualifying seniors, people retired due to disabilities, and veterans with disabilities.

New Monthly Cost Estimates Based on 2026 Assessed Values

Assessed Value	Current Monthly Cost	New Monthly Cost
\$300,000	\$7.00	\$11.25
\$400,000	\$9.33	\$15.00
\$500,000	\$11.67	\$18.75



Learn More
NOLS.org/levy



Register to Vote
votewa.gov

For more details or a community presentation, email: levy@nols.org

YOUR LIBRARY PROVIDES:

- **500,000+ items**, including books, eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming movies, and music.
- Over **1,000 free programs** each year for children, teens, and adults.
- High-speed **Wi-Fi, printers, computers and tech** assistance.
- Public meeting **spaces for community** gatherings.
- Friendly, **knowledgeable staff to help** with research, services, and reading suggestions.
- Library **services for K-12 students and support for homeschool families**.
- Delivery of **library materials for homebound community** members.
- Innovative “NOLS Gear” collection to save you money. Borrow **telescopes, National Park passes, musical instruments**, and more.

SERVING ALL OF CLALLAM COUNTY:

Four Library Branches:

- Clallam Bay
- Forks
- Port Angeles
- Sequim

Bookmobile Stops: Across the county from Blyn to Neah Bay

Outreach Services:

- Home Deliveries
- Visits to Assisted Living Centers
- Daycare and Preschool Programs
- School District Partnerships
- Community Events

Online Resources: Always available at NOLS.org