WHAT IS A LEVY LID LIFT?
State law limits increases in total property taxes collected from existing property owners to 1% or less each year. Taxing jurisdictions with a tax rate less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to “lift” the levy [property tax] lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate.

WHY HAS A LEVY LID LIFT BEEN PROPOSED?
This proposition replaces the source of funding for Library Operations in West Richland. In 2003, City voters approved a 2.5% increase in the utility tax on telephone, electric and gas utility services within the City specifically dedicated to the West Richland Library. The revenue from the utility tax increase has been declining and is no longer sufficient to sustain current library service levels.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR LEVY LID LIFT TO PASS?
A simple majority vote of West Richland residents in the Nov. 8, 2016 election is required.

WHAT WILL THIS COST?
If approved by voters, the current 2.5% utility taxes on telephone, electric, and gas would be replaced beginning in 2017 by a property tax levy lid lift of $0.45 per $1,000 of assessed value. If approved, the City projects that $496,966 will be collected via the levy to fund library services in 2017. That means the owner of a $200,000 home would pay $7.50 a month ($90.00 per year) for library services. Currently, a home with a combined monthly electric and phone bills of $250 pays $6.25 a month (or $75.00 per year).

WHEN WOULD LEVY LID LIFT TAKE EFFECT?
If passed, the levy lid lift would take effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

WHO VOTES?
Registered voters within the city limits of West Richland vote.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY LID LIFT PASSES?
The property tax levy increase would be dedicated to library operations and allow the continuation of current library service levels in West Richland.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY LID LIFT FAILS?
The City currently contracts with Mid-Columbia Libraries to provide library services. If the levy lid lift fails, the City will not have the revenue to maintain the current contract with Mid-Columbia Libraries and will result in a significant reduction of library services in West Richland.

HOW WILL THE BALLOT READ?

CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
PROPOSITION NO. 1
LEVY LID LIFT FOR SUPPORT OF LIBRARY
The City Council of the City of West Richland has adopted Resolution No. 25-16, which concerns replacing the current funding source for the library.

This proposition would replace the 2.5% increase in City electric, telephone, and gas utility taxes approved by voters in 2003 and that currently funds the library with a property tax levy lid lift of $0.45 per $1,000 of assessed value, for a total Citywide annual levy rate of $2.00 per $1,000. The maximum allowable levy rate in 2017 shall serve as the base subsequent levy limitations as provided by Chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

QUESTIONS? Jessica Platt (509) 967-7134, jplatt@westrichland.org or Davin Diaz at (509) 737-6365, ddiaz@midcolumbialibraries.org.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016