

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46204

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF AVON-WASHINGTON PUBLIC)
LIBRARY, HENDRICKS COUNTY,) **A23-005**
FOR AN EXCESS LEVY DUE TO)
THREE-YEAR GROWTH)

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by Avon-Washington Public Library’s (“Library”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$100,000 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Indiana Code 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:
2023, 2022, and 2021

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the civil taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:

Library assessed values for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

<i>2020:</i>	<i>2,863,870,534</i>
<i>2021:</i>	<i>3,043,378,314</i>
<i>2022:</i>	<i>3,389,397,831</i>
<i>2023:</i>	<i>3,939,204,599</i>

Step 2 quotients:

<i>2021/2020:</i>	<i>1.0627</i>
<i>2022/2021:</i>	<i>1.1137</i>
<i>2023/2022:</i>	<i>1.1622</i>

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:

1.1129 ([1.0627+1.1137+1.1622]/3)

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.

Statewide average quotients for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:
1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:
1.0300 (1.1129/1.0804)

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient (“MLGQ”) as calculated according to IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.030 is greater than 1.020, the Library is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):

0.0729 (7.29%) (1.1129-1.0400)

The Library’s 2023 maximum civil levy is \$1,211,031. This is the most recent civil maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 7.29% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$88,240, which is the maximum for which the Library could qualify under the statutory formula. Under IC 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Library must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Library states in its appeal that the population in its service area has grown faster than the property tax levy. The Library states that the excess levy is needed to increase staffing, as it represents that it employs fewer full-time librarians than neighboring libraries with comparatively smaller service areas and patronage. The Library also claims that it is a Class A Public Library “which requires that our professional staff have Masters of Library Science Degrees.” While the Library did not elaborate, the Department by its own research learned that Indiana State Library regulations determine classification of public libraries and credential requirements for librarians, among other matters.

The Department made a follow-up inquiry with the Library regarding needed staffing and costs. The Library responded that a full-time librarian would be hired for the Technical Services Department. This librarian will cost the Library \$58,444 a year: \$39,986 base salary plus \$18,458 benefits and FICA. The Library stated it may also hire a librarian position for the Adult Reference Department, costing about \$49,105 a year: \$34,273 base salary plus \$14,832 benefits and FICA. The combined cost would be approximately \$107,549.

Finally, the Library stated on its Budget Form 3 that it seeks an excess levy appeal of \$92,000 for its General Fund.

After a review of the petition, the Department, following IC 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

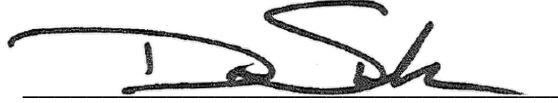
APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:

The Library’s excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$88,240**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Library qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does

not exceed the amount for which the Library advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this 9 day of
November _____, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shackle', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Shackle, Commissioner