

# Frequently Asked Questions



[www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org)

For more information about the requirements for passage or validation of a ballot proposition contact:

## **Lewis County Elections**

Mariann Zumbuhl – Elections Supervisor  
351 NW North St.  
P.O. Box 29  
Chehalis,, WA 98532-0029  
360-740-1164  
[mariann.zumbuhl@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:mariann.zumbuhl@lewiscountywa.gov)

# Should Morton join Timberland Regional Library?



## **Annexation Election Information on the November 6, 2012 ballot**



[www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org)

### **What is the current relationship between Timberland Regional Library (TRL) and the City of Morton?**

There is currently no relationship between the City of Morton and TRL. City residents may buy non-resident library cards to take advantage of library service offered at Timberland libraries and services offered on the TRL website that require a library card. In 2012, the 12-month fee for a non-resident library card is \$82. 6-month, 3-month and 1-month card options are also available.

### **What is annexation?**

Annexation is a process in which voters in a city choose to become part of a library district's boundaries. If the voters decide they want to annex to Timberland Regional Library (TRL), they're choosing to pay additional property tax for library services.

### **Why is the City of Morton considering annexing into Timberland Regional Library?**

Over 100 residents petitioned the Morton City Council to put the library annexation measure on the ballot. This gives the voters in Morton the opportunity to decide whether to tax themselves in order to receive public library services from TRL. Annexing into TRL provides Morton residents with access to the library district's print and digital book, video, and music collections, reference databases, and foreign language learning resources; as well as programs, activities and other services.

### **What will happen if the annexation measure is rejected?**

If the annexation measure doesn't pass, residents of Morton will still be able to purchase non-resident library cards. The annual cost of a non-resident card is re-calculated each year based on the levy rate paid by residents in the library district.

### **What will happen if the annexation measure is approved?**

If a majority of voters (50% + 1) in the City of Morton vote "Yes" to annex to TRL, residents of the City of Morton can access TRL's services both in libraries and online as soon as the election is certified. Residents would have an additional amount added to their property taxes beginning in 2014 to pay for library service. The current TRL library levy rate is 38.3 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This means that the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay \$38.30 per year in property taxes for library services; the owner of a home valued at \$200,000 would pay \$76.60, etc. TRL cooperative agreements allow TRL cardholders to use many other public libraries in Washington State without additional fees. Also, the residents of Morton would be eligible to vote on future TRL ballot measures.

### **Have other cities annexed to TRL?**

Yes. TRL operates 27 libraries in five counties. Nineteen are located in cities; the remaining eight are in unincorporated areas. Seventeen of the nineteen cities have annexed to TRL: Aberdeen, Centralia, Chehalis, Elma, Hoquiam, Ilwaco, Lacey, McCleary, Montesano, Oakville, Olympia, Shelton, South Bend, Tenino, Tumwater, Westport, and Yelm. Raymond and Winlock contract for library services. Bucoda, Cosmopolis and Rainier have annexed to TRL and do not have libraries due to close proximity to existing TRL locations.

### **Will annexing to TRL impact the City of Morton's budget?**

Although the City does not collect property taxes for library services, they are responsible for paying initial and ongoing maintenance and utility costs of a library facility.

### **Will Morton have a library of its own?**

TRL provides trained staff, collection of library materials, computers, printers and related equipment in cities that provide suitable space for a library. Initial evaluation by the TRL Board of Trustees determined that a service point in Morton is appropriate given the population size and the distance to other Timberland libraries.

If the City is not able to provide space for a library, a TRL "kiosk" is a less expensive service option. The City or another organization would need to provide a secure location for the TRL kiosk, an Internet connection, and either paid staff or volunteers to operate and monitor the kiosk. A kiosk allows library card holders to search the library catalog and reference databases, place holds on books or other items from the district's 1.2 million item collection, and to pick up and check out holds which have been delivered to the kiosk. TRL would need an agreement with the City or another organization to support a library or kiosk. It has been suggested that TRL could provide library service in the Morton High School. TRL has begun discussions to determine whether this is a viable option for the community.

City residents would also be able to use Timberland libraries across the five county district, including nearby libraries in Salkum and Randle, plus access a wide range of online services and information on TRL's website at [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org).

### **If the levy passes when will the annexation become effective?**

If the library annexation election passes, annexation will be effective upon certification of the election results.