



Fact Sheet: I-1033 and Libraries

Initiative 1033, on the November 3, 2009 General Election ballot, would limit the growth of revenue to the State's general fund and "related funds," and to cities' and counties' local "current expense funds," based on an annual rate of inflation and population growth. If the State or any city or county receives revenue in a given year above the revenue limit established by the measure, then it must deposit the revenues above the limit into a separate account, and reduce the amount that it otherwise would be authorized to levy in property taxes in the following year by that amount.

According to the state Office of Financial Management's fiscal impact statement included in the Secretary of State's "2009 General Election Voters' Guide," the initiative would reduce state general fund revenues that support education; social, health and environmental services; and general government activities by an estimated \$5.9 billion by 2015. The initiative also reduces general fund revenues that support public safety, infrastructure and general government activities by an estimated \$694 million for counties and \$2.1 billion for cities by 2015.

Although it would not apply to special purpose districts, such as library and fire districts, if I-1033 is approved by voters and subsequently implemented —

- Library funding for state-funded K-12 schools, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and the Washington State Library would be open to reductions as their parent organizations address fiscal impacts from lower state general fund revenues.
- Cities, whose budgets have already been hurt by the economic downturn, would face new challenges in maintaining local service levels, including those of city-funded public libraries, and service contracts with library districts.
- Library districts providing services to cities on a contractual basis may face requests to reduce contract fees as the cities deal with the impact of revenue reductions; those whose annexed cities support library facility maintenance and operation costs may be asked to assume those more or all of those costs.

The current recession has already adversely affected the budgets of virtually all types of publicly funded libraries, this at a time when public libraries in particular have experienced significant increases in use. Revenue reductions required by I-1033 in all probability will further compound an already difficult situation.