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Lane County Commission Work Session January 29, 2003

Lane Library League Briefing

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Answers to Questions Previously Asked of the Lane Library League by Lane County Commissioners

Respectfully Submitted to the Lane County Commissioners
by the Lane Library League

1. Question: Many county ballot measures went down in the last election. How is it that the League thinks it will do better?

Answer: Our recent county-wide survey (see enclosed report summary) shows that this measure would pass in every part of the county. It's also important to remember that this margin of support for the proposed library districts should actually improve once the current recession is over.

2. Question: If we're already paying for schools, why can't we just hook into school libraries?

Answer: Schools have security issue regarding the public entering their building, and their libraries have very different collections than public libraries. University collections focus on research not on mystery novels, travel guides, how-to home fix-it manuals, and music and videos. Schools don't support children's story time, and they have been cut way back in recent years. Park Rose in Portland tried to combine a high school and public library and people ended up driving miles out of the way to get to another library.

3. Question: How can you guarantee that the cities won't just use the general fund monies that were going towards library service for something else (rather than reducing by that amount the taxes people are levied by the cities)?

Answer: We are working with all the city councils and will work out the nuts and bolts of this issue with them. The bottom line is that current library patrons will get better service for their money and thousands of rural residents will get access to libraries. The recent independent survey shows how important this is to the voters.

4. Question: What about the existing districts? Is the LLL proposal going to work for them?

Answer: The two new library districts we would create are separate from, and do not affect, the two existing library districts in West Lane County. However, we are engaged in an on-going dialogue with Fern Ridge and Siuslaw library districts to help them in any way we can. Our goal is to cooperate so that every citizen in Lane County is served by a library district.

5. Question: You know the history of county library service in Lane County. We voted on this only a few years ago and it went down. Why do you think things are different now?

Answer: The last county library election was 13 years ago. We're offering something very different from what was offered then, and the demographics have changed considerably since 1990.

6. Question: Why should the county commissioners put this measure on the ballot when it could be placed on the ballot by initiative?

Answer: The timeline for preparing this measure for the 2004 ballot is already very tight. We still must develop an economic feasibility study and obtain the support of all the effected local governments before we could collect signatures. We have the volunteers for an initiative drive, but we do not have enough time left before the 2004 election. With the commissioners' support and expertise, we would be assured of successfully placing a measure before the voters in a timely manner.

Without the commissioners' help we will miss the 2004 ballot, and the next general election without a double-majority requirement is 2006. We do not want to condemn Lane County's rural children to nearly four more years without library service -- especially when our recent survey shows that the voters are ready to approve it now. This is a chance for the commissioners to place a measure on the ballot that will pass.

Lane Library League's Request of the Lane County Commissioners

Respectfully Submitted to the Lane County Commissioners
by the Lane Library League

1. The Lane Library League requests that the Lane County commissioners support the process to amend the Metro Plan in order to enable the creation of new library districts in our county.
2. The League requests that the commissioners initiate a petition to create two special districts.

A Summary of Findings and Implications from the League's December 2002 County-Wide Survey

Respectfully Submitted to the Lane County Commissioners
by the Lane Library League

Findings

"Support"¹ for Library Districts (with specified services, at a tax rate of \$0.60 per thousand)

- Generally, "Support" is greater than 50% across the county.
- 67% of rural residents in East Lane and 63% in Fern Ridge indicate "Support" for this measure.

Current Library Approval Ratings

- Countywide library service ratings have declined significantly since the May 1999 survey, but ratings for library service are generally positive.
- Non-served areas generally have the highest "Poor" and "Don't Know" ratings regarding current service.

Specific Ballot Questions by Sample

- Residents continue to "Support" library service even after the cost of service is included in the question.
- After specific information about services is offered, "Support" climbs significantly and is generally greater than 50%

Importance Ratings for Component Services

- Children's programs are generally the most important component to respondents. In many areas the scores are remarkably high – with more than 40% rating it "very important."
- Access to the Eugene Public Library is generally the second most important component.
- Generally, the elected board (each district's board) is not considered important except in the areas that would be grouped with the City of Eugene.

Implications

- The level of "Support" displayed county-wide indicates a very reasonable chance of passage.
- The positive change in "Support" from when the cost is outlined alone to when it is outlined along with particular services indicates that an education campaign will be needed to pass this measure.
- The ballot measure needs to outline services to be provided as well as the tax rate to be assessed.

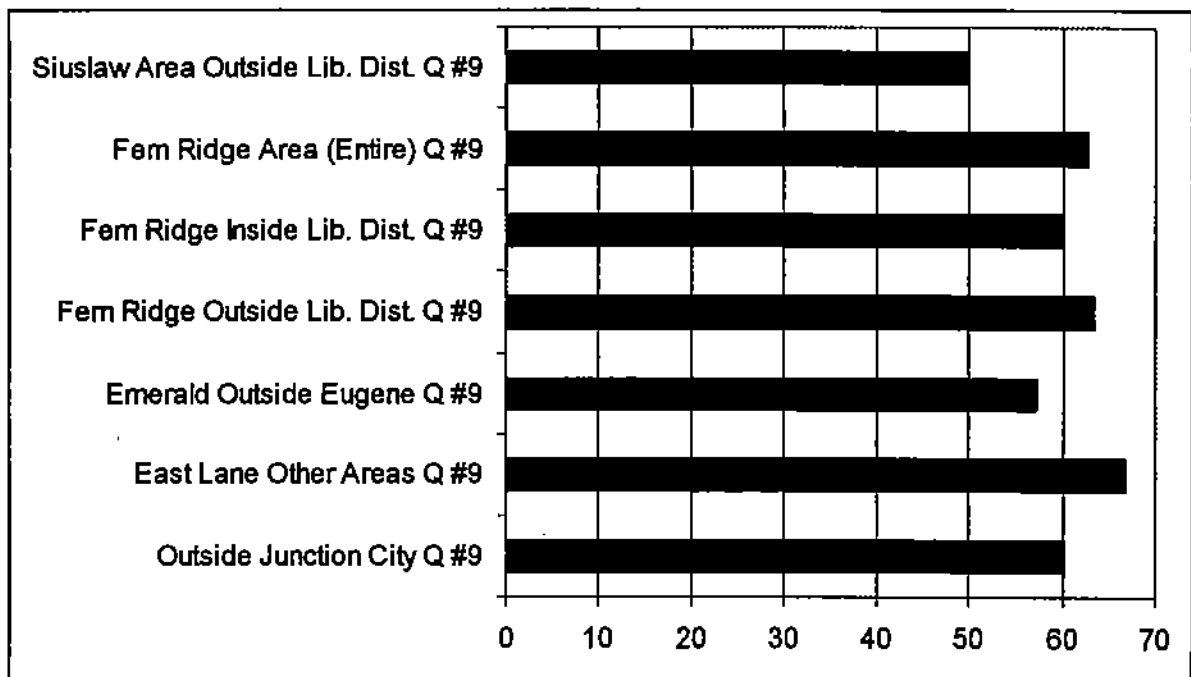
¹ "Support" equals the sum of "Support" for the question and "Lean Support."

RESIDENTS SUPPORT LOCAL LIBRARY SERVICES THROUGHOUT COUNTY

Respectfully Submitted to the Lane County Commissioners
by the Lane Library League

Summarized Question Wording: If an election were held today and existing libraries remained independent but were closely linked, there was children's programming, and the cost was \$60 per year for the average household, would you support the formation of a library district?

(Note: for ease of understanding, the above is a summary statement of the actual questions asked by the survey. For the precise wording of each region's question, please see the results section in the complete report.)



Sample-Question	Total Support
Siuslaw Area Outside Lib. Dist. Q #9	50
Fern Ridge Area (Entire) Q #9	63
Fern Ridge Inside Lib. Dist. Q #9	60
Fern Ridge Outside Lib. Dist. Q #9	63
Emerald Outside Eugene Q #9	57
East Lane Other Areas Q #9	67
Outside Junction City Q #9	60

NOTE: Total Support = Support + Lean Towards Supporting

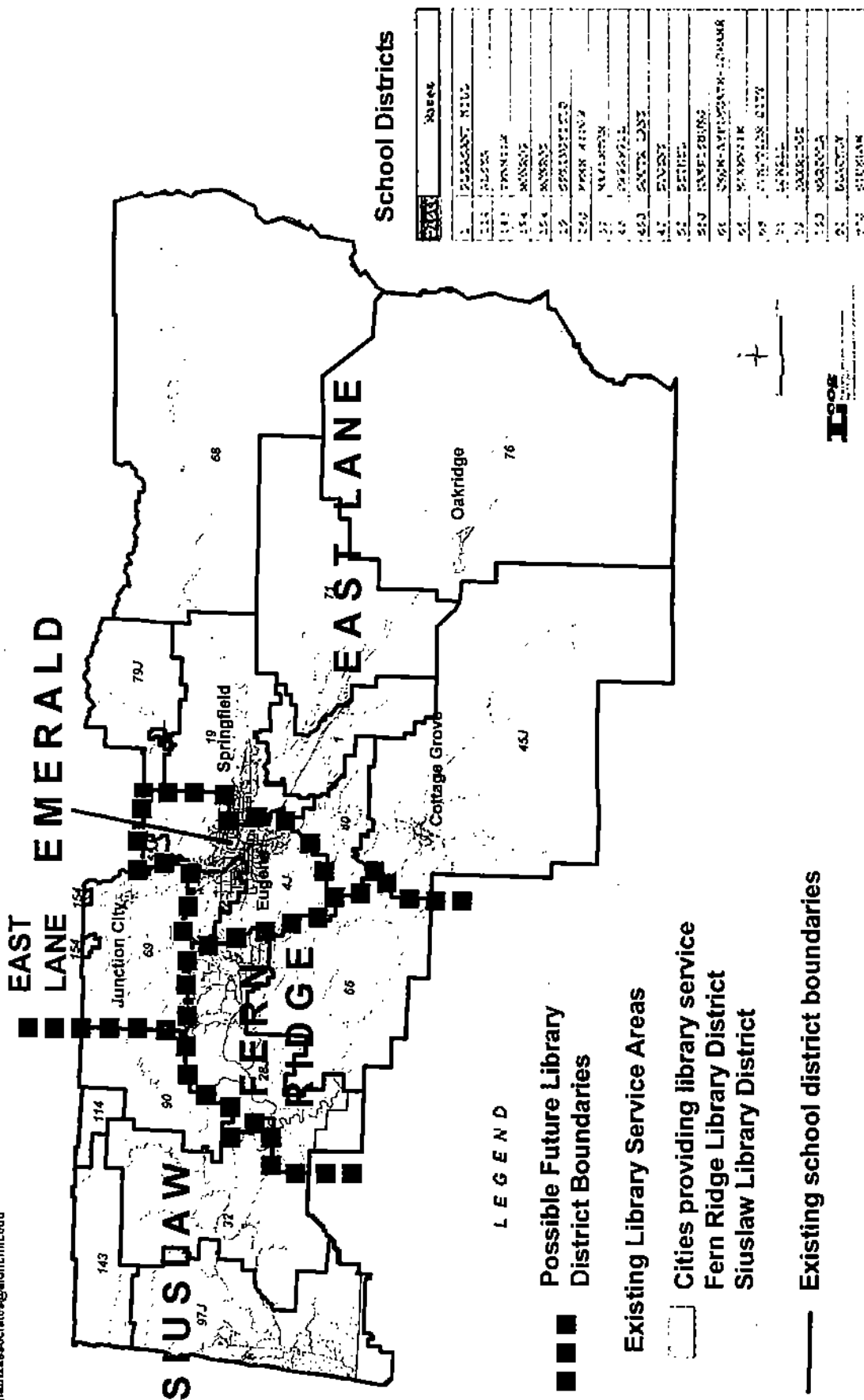
Survey conducted by Lindholm Company, LLC, and Edgewater Strategies, LLC.



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Lane County Library Districts

Showing School District Boundaries



School Districts

District	Name
1	PARSONS
2	PARSONS
3	PARSONS
4	PARSONS
5	PARSONS
6	PARSONS
7	PARSONS
8	PARSONS
9	PARSONS
10	PARSONS
11	PARSONS
12	PARSONS
13	PARSONS
14	PARSONS
15	PARSONS
16	PARSONS
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90	PARSONS
91	PARSONS
92	PARSONS
93	PARSONS
94	PARSONS
95	PARSONS
96	PARSONS
97	PARSONS
98	PARSONS
99	PARSONS
100	PARSONS



Proposed and Existing Library Districts in Lane County

Proposed Library Districts with the school districts included in the proposed districts

Emerald Library District
 Eugene SD 4J
 Harrisburg SD 7J
 Bethel SD 52

total

Net Assessed Value FY 2001-02 in thousands *	0.45	0.60	0.75	0.90	Siuslaw Library District permanent tax rate 0.5163	Fern Ridge Library District permanent tax rate 0.3824
\$8,461,442	5,076,865	6,346,082	7,615,298	14,890		
\$16,544	9,926	12,408	14,890			
\$1,771,795	1,063,077	1,328,846	1,594,616			
\$10,249,781	\$6,149,869	\$7,687,336	\$9,224,803			

East Lane Library District

- Springfield SD 19
- Marcola SD 79J
- McKenzie SD 68
- Lowell SD 71
- Oakridge SD 76
- South Lane SD 45J
- Creswell SD 40
- Pleasant Hill SD 1
- Junction City SD 69
- Montrose SD
- Blachly SD 80

1,431,605	1,908,806	2,386,008	
44,468	59,290	74,113	
97,858	130,478	163,097	
53,908	71,877	89,846	
74,395	99,193	123,892	
363,919	485,225	606,532	
140,852	187,803	234,754	
157,700	210,266	262,833	
258,309	344,413	430,516	
3,489	4,652	5,816	
\$18,452	21,443	28,804	
\$2,384,705	\$3,152,939	\$3,941,174	

Annual cost to a homeowner with a home assessed at \$120K

Revenue	\$54	\$72	\$90	\$108	\$62	\$48
Revenue	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024
\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862
\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886
0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824
0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800
\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714
\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830
\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926
\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024
\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435
\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099
0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163
0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154
\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51
\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20
\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305

Existing Library Districts

Fern Ridge Library District

- Fern Ridge SD 26J
 - Crow-Applegate-Lorraine SD 66
- assessed value of expanded district
 Permanent Tax Rate
 local option tax rate for current district - not renewed
 total revenue for expanded district

Revenue	\$54	\$72	\$90	\$108	\$62	\$48
Revenue	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024
\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862
\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886
0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824
0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800
\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714
\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830
\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926
\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024
\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435
\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099
0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163
0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154
\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51
\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20
\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305

Siuslaw Library District

- Siuslaw SD 97J
 - Mapleton SD 32
 - Lincoln Co. SD
 - Alicea SD 7J
- assessed value of expanded district
 Permanent Tax Rate
 bond tax rate for current district

Revenue	\$54	\$72	\$90	\$108	\$62	\$48
Revenue	**	**	**	**	**	**
\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024	\$473,024
\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862	\$151,862
\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886	\$624,886
0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824
0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800	0.1800
\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714	\$1,012,714
\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830	\$977,830
\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926	\$89,926
\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024	\$24,024
\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435
\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099	\$1,128,099
0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163	0.5163
0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154	0.1154
\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51	\$582,437.51
\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20	\$116,867.20
\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305	\$699,305

Budgets for Existing Libraries & Library Districts		
	fiscal year	budget
Eugene	2000-2001	\$4,980,263
Springfield	2002-2003	\$1,239,346
Cottage Grove	2002-2003	\$257,967
Oakridge	2002-2003	\$63,385
Junction City	2002-2003	\$65,838
Fern Ridge	2002-2003	\$327,200
Siuslaw	2002-2003	\$671,334

* from the Lane County Tax Value Comparisons 2001-2002 Taxable Value
 ** actual taxable value of current district from Lane County Tax Value Comparisons 2001-2002 Taxable Value
 *** not included in total - part of current district

existing district
 existing district

A Brief History of Efforts to Bring Library Services to All County Residents

(Adapted from the 1999 Lane County Library Study by Dallas Shaffer)

Respectfully Submitted to the Lane County Commissioners
by the Lane Library League

- **1974 – 1988** - A County Library was established in 1974 with federal demonstration funds and was supported by countywide serial levies from 1976 to 1988. The levies supported a bookmobile and a small branch in Creswell and returned taxes collected in the cities to the cities with libraries. The levies were not large enough to reimburse city libraries for serving residents in the unincorporated areas. The County Library ceased operations in 1988 when operating levies narrowly failed in May. Later that year, it was placed back on the ballot unchanged and failed by a larger margin.
- **1976** - A county-wide property tax levy funded the Lane County Library, which provided a bookmobile and a branch library in Creswell. Levy monies collected in those municipalities which had libraries were returned, minus a small amount to support Lane Council of Librarians. This levy was renewed every 2-3 years
- **1984** - Siuslaw Library District established
- **1988** - Library Task Force conducted a year long study, resulting in the recommendation that a tax be levied to support a universal library card. This tax was to reimburse existing libraries for providing services to all county residents.
- **1990** - Levy of 14.6 cents/\$1,000 assessed valuation (\$8.76 on a \$60,000 home) failed on a June ballot. Approximately 43% of those eligible voted. 58% voted against, 42% voted in favor. The measure would have established a modest levy of 14.6cents/\$1,000 assessed valuation. Funds collected in rural and unincorporated areas would have paid for library service for those living outside of existing library service areas by reimbursing existing libraries for actual nonresident use. Funds collected in cities and districts with libraries would have been returned to those governing bodies to benefit their local libraries
- **1993** - Siuslaw Library District expanded east to include the Mapleton area.
- **1994** - Fern Ridge Library District established as a stand-alone entity.
- **1994** - City of Eugene conducted a market survey of RR/SC residents to see if there was interested in purchasing specific services. Based on survey results, EPL did not offer specific services to the area.
- **1998** - City of Eugene voters approved a four-year levy increase in library support to equip and staff the new EPL, which has recently opened, and to open two new branches in leased space in the Bethel and Sheldon areas of the city.
- **1998** - Voters in the Fern Ridge Library District approved a five-year serial levy to increase library hours.
- **1998** - The Oregon State library awarded Lane County a \$20,000 LSTA grant to identify and analyze options for providing library services to those without access to public library services.

Lane Library League

Highlights of Timeline required to get petition on the November 2004 Ballot for Library Districts in Lane County

J-03 F-03 M-03 A-03 M-03 J-03 J-03 A-03 S-03 O-03 N-03 D-03 J-04 F-04 M-04 A-04 M-04 J-04 J-04 A-04 S-04 O-04 N-04 D-04

