



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**State Library
of Oregon**

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www.oregon.gov/library

Organization: State Library of Oregon

Date: August 10, 2026

Meeting: Rules Advisory Committee – Library closures and cuts

In attendance: Suzanne Bishop, St. Helens Public Library (Columbia County); Stephanie Chase, Libraries of Eastern Oregon; Bridget Esqueda, Salem Public Library (Marion and Polk counties); Heather Estrada, Umatilla County Special Library District; Chris Ostberg, Grant County Library; Miriam Sisson, North Douglas Library District (Douglas County); Kris Wiley, Roseburg Public Library (Douglas County), Buzzy Nielsen, State Library of Oregon; Darci Hanning, State Library of Oregon; Jey Wann, State Library of Oregon (note-taker)

OARs under review: Creating new rules to clarify ORS 357.621

SUMMARY

Meeting started: 9:00 a.m.

Review of draft text

The group reviewed draft text for the new and revised rules.

New definitions:

- “Abolish” – withdrawing all funding or rescinding legal establishment
- “Withdraw support” – cutting funding substantially, so that the library no longer meets minimum conditions. This doesn’t include “financial austerity” when there are cuts across the board in a city, etc., or not renewing a levy. Added “staffing” to “service” to clarify that staffing cuts are included.
 - What if a government intends to put a funding measure on the ballot? Is there a grace period? There needs to be a guidance document about this. The proposed rule is about an existing levy. But a levy not passing doesn’t trigger the requirement to hold a hearing because the voters have told the governing body what to do already.
 - Does “withdrawing” support include things like terminating a lease without cause? Probably not, because it’s not the governing body that’s doing it.

The “Official recognition of public libraries” sections includes a minor revision just replacing “withdraws support” with “abolishes the library.”

Hearings for library closures and budget cuts:

- Hearings must be noticed separately.
- “Newspaper of general circulation” is common language in ORS. Governments will understand. We’re not defining because it is used elsewhere in ORS. It already includes online newspapers
- Add “its” to “fiscal year” to clarify that the government is using its own fiscal year.

One RAC member asked if there are consequences to not following the rules? SLO staff talked to DOJ about this: the recourse is that someone sues the governing body. The State Library doesn’t have the authority to determine consequences.

Next steps

- DOJ will review final language. There may be some small changes. Buzzy will notify the group if there are larger changes from DOJ
- Remaining timeline:
 - Sept 17, notice to legislators
 - Sept 23, information goes to the Secretary of State for the [Oregon Bulletin](#)
 - Sept 17, Nov 6- comment period opens
 - Oct 1, published in [Oregon Bulletin](#)
 - Nov 6, hearing at State Library Board meeting. Group members are welcome to submit comments, but not required. Be sure to follow applicable rules about providing comments.
 - Nov 6, Public comment period closes
 - Jan 1, 2027, Effective date

Meeting ended: 9:45 a.m.