

# LEWIS AND CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY MILL LEVY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- A member of a board, commission, council, or committee may solicit support for or opposition to the mill levy, unless the member is also a full-time public employee
- If the board, commission, council, or committee has rulemaking authority, then the member is restricted from soliciting support or opposition

## EMPLOYEES OF LEWIS AND CLARK LIBRARY

- A public officer or public employee may not use public time, facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel, or funds to solicit support for or opposition to any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue
- Exception – employee may solicit or oppose the measure if it is properly incidental to another activity required or authorized by law, such as the function of an elected public officer, the officer's staff, or the legislative staff in the normal course of duties
- With respect to ballot issues, properly incidental activities are restricted to:
  - the activities of a public officer, the public officer's staff, or legislative staff related to determining the impact of passage or failure of a ballot issue on state or local government operations

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Public funds may not be expended for any form of commercial advertising in support of or opposition to a bond issue or levy submitted to the electors
- The restrictions for soliciting or opposing a levy are not intended to restrict the right of a public officer or public employee to express personal political views
- Although the statute sets forth rules of conduct for public officers and employees, it is not personal political speech that is prohibited, but rather the use of public time or resources in the presentation or furtherance of political speech. Thus, a public officer or employee may engage in political speech, including the support or opposition of a candidate or ballot issue, as long as the political speech does not involve the use of public time, facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel, or funds