

News Release November 7, 2012 Media Contact: Laurel Prysiazny (559) 600-6237

VOTERS RENEW TAX FOR LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

Fresno County voters have renewed the Measure B sales tax to continue a pivotal revenue source which currently funds more than 54 percent of the budget for local library improvements. Measure B won the required two-thirds vote with a 72 percent victory.

Measure B has generated \$160,408,313 to improve Library services and programs since it was first passed by voters in 1998 and first renewed in 2004. The 1/8-cent sales tax was set to expire in March 2013 but will now continue through March 2029.

Improvements at local libraries include job centers, homework centers, wifi access, express checkout, and more public computers. Measure B has also provided supplemental funding for renovating existing libraries and building new libraries.

"Once again, the public has invested in Fresno County libraries through their votes," said Laurel Prysiazny, Fresno County Librarian. "We are extremely grateful for their confidence in our efforts to use Measure B funds wisely and prudently to date. Their vote of confidence proves that communities value the Library more than ever during these tough economic times."

Library officials will now focus on implementing further service and facilities enhancements as outlined in their Strategic Plan 2012-2015.