Orange County Library District

Sources of Information: Bob Tessier (Library District Comptroller), Laws of Florida Codification of Orange County Library District

The evolution of the Orange County Library District was a function of the City of Orlando outgrowing its current at the main library. The City did not have a way to fund a new library and decided that it should not just be the City of Orlando that paid for a library expansion. Therefore, the City of Orlando, the Public Library, and Orange County agreed to establish a memorandum of understanding regarding a potential independent library district. The Library District Act was approved by the State legislature and appeared on the September 1980 ballot. It was approved by approximately 63% of the voters. On the same ballot, a separate referendum for the Library District to issue $22 million in bonds was also approved to expand the main library.

The Orange County Library District has a $35 million budget and levies 0.3748 mills. They have 1 main library and 14 branch libraries. The District owns the main library and five of the branches. Three branches are leased from municipalities (two for no rent and the last for $5,000/month), while the remaining six branch libraries are at market rate leases.

The Orange County Library District has its own health insurance and pension plan, and it does not rely on the County for any business related activities (HR, Accounting, Purchasing, etc.).

The Orange County Library District's Governing Board is comprised of the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County and one member appointed by the City Council of the City of Orlando. The Library Board of Trustees contains five members.