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For Immediate Release

Statement from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Regarding Election Results

(Pittsburgh – November 8, 2011) In overwhelming numbers, more than seventy percent of Pittsburgh residents voted to approve a special tax to provide dedicated funding for the maintenance and operation of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

“What a great day to be a resident of this city and a part of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh,” said Patrick Dowd, Co-Chair of the Library’s Joint Committee on Sustainable Funding and member of the Board of Trustees. “Today, the people of Pittsburgh demonstrated, once again, that they not only want, but need the Library and the critical services it provides. We are grateful to the many thousands of people from all across the City of Pittsburgh who showed their unwavering support for the Library by contributing their time, resources and enthusiasm to the *Our Library, Our Future* initiative.”

The revenue provided by this special tax is one part of a long-term sustainable funding plan and will play a large part in allowing Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to continue to provide neighborhood-based services to city residents, including early learning programs for children and families, job search assistance and computer and Internet access. This voter initiative passing is a key part of a multi-pronged approach to sustainable funding. In combination with the five other recommendations of the Public Private Task Force, these revenues will provide the Library with the diverse and sustainable funding it needs to provide critical library services now and into the future.

The Library staff and board are committed to addressing community priorities including such things as branch hours and services, internet connectivity and children and youth programming. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh looks forward to ongoing conversations with the community as the Library continues to pursue the other five funding initiatives and embarks on a long-term planning process that will help determine how to maximize resources to provide the best possible library service.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Engaging our Community in Literacy and Learning

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation’s libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region’s most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.

Our Library, Our Future

Our Library, Our Future is a community-based initiative launched in June 2011 to raise awareness about the need to provide financial support for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the critical services that the Library provides. Since start of the initiative, nearly 11,000 people from around the city have signed a petition to help make sure that the Library can continue to strengthen the community. The initiative asks voters to put a referendum on the November 2011 ballot for a 0.25 mill special tax (equivalent to \$25 per year or \$2.09 per month on \$100,000 of assessed property) on all taxable real estate in the City of Pittsburgh to be allocated and used only for the operation and maintenance of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The *Our Library, Our Future* voter initiative is just one of six solutions recommended by the Public-Private Task Force on Sustainable Library Funding to provide Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh with the diverse and sustained funding it needs.