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## DAVIDSON COUNTY LIBRARY VOTE

The Davidson County Commissioners have continued to appropriate funds to operate the Davidson County Library in spite of the contradictory opinions by state officials regarding the legality of appropriating tax funds for public libraries without an election authorizing a library tax levy. In recent years, the Commissioners included the County Library appropriations in the county school budget for Davidson County. This was a technical camouflage. Early in 1943 the State School Commission refused to approve the county school budget with the library appropriations included. The County Library appropriations have since been separated

from the school budget, but state officials have now ruled that the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County can not appropriate funds for the County Library after July 1, 1943 unless authorized by a vote of the people.

To avoid the necessity of a vote against the old registration books, a bill has been enacted by the present General Assembly which permits the Davidson County Board of Commissioners to call a special election on the library tax levy. Registration books for the special registration will be open on March 13, 20 and 27. The election is called for April 5, 1943.

The strategy to date is to work quietly among friends of the library, both among individuals and among groups. Letters, mimeographed information, reminder postcards and personal contacts are the media being used. There has been no report of organized opposition, but the greatest danger is the general lethargy on the part of the voting public.

Points being emphasized are that a favorable vote will not increase the tax rate, but that it will merely legalize appropriating for the County Library in the same manner as has been done for the past fourteen and one-half years; and that a failure to carry the vote will mean the closing of all five divisions of the County Library System on July 1, 1943.

A successful vote will establish the Davidson County Public Library on a stable basis, and it will have a favorable effect upon other public libraries in the State.

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