



PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY Library District

www.pueblolibrary.org

Board of Trustees Bylaws and Ethics

01.02.02 Affirmation of Ethics Statement and American Library Association Library Bill of Rights for Public Library Trustees

ETHICS STATEMENT

Each member of the Board of Trustees annually affirms his/her commitment to the Ethics Statement for Public Library Trustees which states:

Trustees in the capacity of trust upon them, shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity and honor. While there may be several ways to reflect compliance with ethical standards, the Pueblo City-County Library District has developed the following guidelines, derived from Colorado law.

Trustees must not derive any financial benefit by reason of their position as a member of the Board of Trustees, although they may be compensated for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

While a board member, a Trustee cannot contract with the District for the provision of services. Trustees must not disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of their official duties to further their personal financial interests.

Trustees cannot accept a gift exceeding \$50.00 in value in any calendar year (i) if doing so would improperly influence a reasonable person to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of public duties or (ii) which the Trustee knows or which a reasonable person in the position should know under the circumstances is primarily for the purpose of rewarding the Trustee for official action the Trustee has taken.

Trustees must not engage in a financial transaction for private business purposes with a person whom the Trustee supervises in the course of the Trustees' official duties.

Any Trustee who has a personal or private interest in any matter proposed or pending before the Board of Trustees shall disclose such interest to the Board and shall not vote thereon and shall refrain from attempting to influence the decision of the other members of the body in voting on the matter. A Trustee may vote if his/her vote is necessary for the Board to act if he/she discloses the private interest in a filing to the Secretary of State.

Governance Policies and Procedures

Affirmation of Ethics & American Library Association Library Bill of Rights for Public Library Trustees

Revised: 02-04-2026

Adopted: 12-14-2010

Policy # 01.02.02

Trustees must clearly distinguish, in their actions and statements, the personal philosophies and attitudes of the Trustee versus those of the institution, recognizing the formal position of the Board, even if a Trustee personally disagrees with the formal position the Board has taken.

Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of librarians in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

Trustees who accept library board responsibilities are expected to perform all of the functions of library trustees.

See Also: Colorado Revised Statute 24-18-104

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

Anyone selected to serve on the Board of Trustees will be required to acknowledge and pledge support and promote the principals set forth in the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right of privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019. Inclusion of “age” reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the *Library Bill of Rights* are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>).