



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY-LAWS

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### Article I – Name and Mission

**Section 1.** The name of this body shall be the Board of Trustees of the Licking County Library. This Board is organized under *Section 3375.19* of the *Ohio Revised Code* and derives its authority from *Section 3375.40* and other relevant sections of the *Ohio Revised Code*.

**Section 2.** The mission of the Licking County Library shall be appended to these by-laws and shall be revised from time to time by the Board of Trustees as appropriate.

### Article II – Meetings

**Section 1.** Organizational Meeting: An organizational meeting shall be held each year in January to elect officers and conduct such other business as the Board of Trustees deems necessary.

**Section 2.** Regular Meeting: The board’s regular bi-monthly meetings shall be held on dates, at times, and at location(s) as the Board directs.

**Section 3.** A Records Commission shall consist of the Board of Trustees and the fiscal officer. The commission shall meet at least once every twelve months and shall be responsible for overseeing the Library’s compliance with the Ohio Records Law as described in Chapter 149 of the *Ohio Revised Code*.

**Section 4.** Special Meeting: Special meetings shall be held at the call of the President, or on the written request of two members of the Board. To call a special meeting, the Fiscal Officer or the Secretary of the Board must give three working days’ notice to all Board members in writing. If the special meeting is of an emergency nature, twenty-four hours’ notice, either orally or electronically, must be given.

**Section 5.** A quorum necessary for the conduct of business shall be a majority, with *Robert’s Rules of Order* serving as the governing structure for the Board except as provided in these By-Laws.

**Section 6.** The Director, in collaboration with the Fiscal Officer and the President of the Board, shall prepare an agenda for each regular meeting. The agenda items for each regular meeting shall include, but not be limited to:

- *Roll Call*
- *Adoption of Agenda*
- *Minutes*
- *Public Comments*
- *Announcements, Presentations, and Correspondence*
- *Fiscal Officer’s Report*
- *Committee Reports*
- *Director’s Report*
- *Old Business*
- *New Business*
- *Adjournment*

**Section 7.** Posting: To conform to the Ohio open meeting statute (See section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code), all meetings shall be announced by notification on the Licking County Library website at least twenty-four hours before the scheduled time. Any person may, upon request, be notified by email or by postal mail by providing a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**Section 8. Executive Session:** The board may enter into executive session for the purpose as described in the Ohio Open Meetings Act. (I.e. Certain personnel matters, the purchase of property, pending or imminent litigation with the library's attorney)

An executive session may only be held at a regular or special meeting and must always begin and end in an open meeting.

The motion to hold an executive session shall state the specific purpose of such a session and the motion must be approved in an open meeting in a roll call vote by a majority of the quorum of the board. The Board of Trustees may not vote or take official action in an executive session.

**Section 9. Public Participation:**

Time is set aside on each regular meeting agenda for public participation from the audience. The Board of Trustees of the Licking County Library welcomes this input. Those wishing to speak must complete a public comments form and return it to the presiding officer of the meeting prior to speaking. Speakers must identify any groups or organizations for which they will speak in an official capacity. Those who have submitted the form and wish to address the board will be recognized in the order in which they signed in. Public comments should be addressed to members of the board. All visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the orderly completion of the meeting.

Comments shall be limited to specific operations and services of the library. Comments about a specific staff member must be limited to a written format to protect the staff member and the commenting member of the public from possible defamation of character and/or slanderous comments. Comments about a specific staff member will be referred directly to the Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation when it is deemed appropriate.

The main purpose of board meetings is to conduct the business of the library. For the board to fulfill its obligation to complete the meeting agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 10 minutes of public participation is permitted at each meeting. The board president may limit by time the comments of each public participant and will do so by announcing the time limit at the beginning of the meeting, and applying the time limit equally to all participants. Signed written comments of any length will be accepted.

**Article III – Membership**

**Section 1. Appointment:** The Licking County Library is a county district library under the control and management of the Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members. Four Board members shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and three by the Judges of Common Pleas Court. They shall serve for a term of seven years without compensation.

- Appointments are staggered such that no more than one (1) trustee's term is scheduled to expire in the same year.
- A trustee must be a qualified elector of the library's service district.
- A trustee appointed to complete an unexpired term or to succeed another trustee shall be appointed by the same board or officers that appointed his or her predecessor.
- In general, trustees are guided in the performance of their duties by the most recent edition of the Ohio Public Library Trustee's Handbook.

**Section 2. Filling Vacancies & Re-appointment:** An ad hoc committee of the Board of Trustees shall recommend the reappointment of a trustee or a new candidate to the full board to fill a vacant trustee position. Applicants will be recommended to the appointing authority following a two-thirds vote of the Board. See Ohio Revised Code 3375.22.

## **Article IV – Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Board of Trustees shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Fiscal Officer. Each officer shall be elected at the organizational meeting and shall hold office for the term of one year or until his or her successor shall be elected. All officers of the Board shall hold full voting privileges except the Fiscal Officer.

**Section 2.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board, authorize calls for any special meetings, appoint all committees, execute all documents authorized by the Board, serve as an *ex officio* voting member of all committees, and generally perform all other duties associated with the office.

**Section 3.** The Vice-President, in the event of the absence of the President or of a vacancy in that office, shall assume and perform the duties and functions of the President.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all Board meetings, issue notice of all regular and special meetings, and shall perform other duties as are generally associated with the office.

**Section 5.** The Fiscal Officer, or his or her designated representative, shall be the disbursing officer of the Board, co-sign all checks, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with the office. The Fiscal Officer and his or her designated representative(s) shall be bonded in an amount as required by the Board of Trustees. The Fiscal Officer and his or her designated representative do not have voting privileges as granted to all other Board officers.

## **Article V – Committees**

**Section 1.** The standing committees of the Board shall be Buildings & Grounds, Finance, and Personnel. Each committee shall consist of at least three members of the Board of Trustees with full voting privileges and shall include the Director and other appropriate library staff who shall serve as non-voting *ex officio* members, as determined by the Board President and the Director. Meetings shall be held at the call of the committee chair. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the committee members with full voting privileges.

**Section 1a.** The Buildings & Grounds Committee shall consider the establishment of all new branches and make recommendations on site selection, size, and character of each library building. Additionally, the Committee shall work with the Director and appropriate library staff to determine the building needs and improvements for all buildings owned or operated by the Library.

**Section 1b.** The Finance Committee shall work with the Director, the Fiscal Officer, and appropriate library staff to maintain in a prudent manner the fiscal status of the Library.

**Section 1c.** The Personnel Committee shall work with the Director and appropriate library staff to determine personnel and compensation policies for the Library. Additionally, the Committee shall work with the Director and appropriate library staff to determine the working conditions that contribute to the success of the Library's overall mission.

**Section 2.** From time to time, the President shall appoint committees of one or more members of the Board, the Director, and appropriate library staff for such purposes as the business of the Library may require. An *ad hoc* committee shall be considered to be discharged upon the completion of the purpose for which it was appointed and after the final report of the *ad hoc* committee has been accepted by the Board.

**Section 2a.** A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the president three (3) months prior to the organization meeting and shall present a slate of officers at the regular meeting in November to be

voted upon at the annual meeting in January. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

**Section 3.** No committee shall have other than advisory powers unless, by suitable action of the Board, it is granted specific power to act.

## **Article VI – Governance**

**Section 1.** The Board shall appoint and fix the compensation of a qualified Director who shall serve, under the Board’s review and at its direction, as the chief executive and administrative officer of the Library. In this capacity, the Director shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Library. The Director shall recommend to the Board the appointment and specify the duties of all other staff and shall be held responsible for the proper direction and supervision of the staff, the care and maintenance of library buildings and property, the adequate and proper selection of materials and information in keeping with the stated policies of the Board, the efficient and prudent provision of library service to the public, and its financial operation within the fiscal limitations as determined by the Board of Trustees. The Director shall be expected to attend all meetings of the Board and to meet with all committees unless otherwise agreed to with the President and Committee Chair.

**Section 2.** The Board shall appoint and fix the compensation of a qualified Fiscal Officer who shall serve, under the Board’s review and at its direction, as the chief financial officer of the Library. In this capacity, the Fiscal Officer, or his or her designated representative, shall be responsible for the day-to-day fiscal operations of the Library. The Fiscal Officer shall be responsible for the certification of Library monies, collected or in the process of being collected, and the appropriate expenditure of these monies. The Fiscal Officer shall be the treasurer of all Library monies and deposit all monies received according to the statutes of the State of Ohio. A full financial accounting of Library receipts and disbursements, as determined by the Board, shall be made by the Fiscal Officer or his or her designated representative at the regular meeting of the Board.

**Section 3.** The Board, collectively, shall serve as the policy-making body of the Library. Additionally, the Board shall assume those powers given it by relevant sections of the *Ohio Revised Code* 3375.40 and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with the office. The policies approved by the board shall remain in effect until changed or rescinded by further action of the board. These policies shall be administered by library staff. The Business Office shall maintain a file of all policies established by the board for consultation and distribution as directed by the board and required by law.

**Section 4.** Members of the Board are expected to be regular and timely in their attendance and performance of duties related to the position to which they have been appointed. Failure to do so may result in the President notifying the appropriate appointing authority of such conduct.

## **Article VII – Ethics**

The Board of Trustees subscribes to the statement of principles promulgated by the American Library Trustee Association as listed below and is bound by applicable statutes of the Ohio Ethics Law and the rulings of the Ohio Ethics Commission.

### **ETHICS STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

- Trustees, in the capacity of trust upon them, shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity, and honor.
- Trustees must avoid situations where personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the institution. ORC 3375.35 states that “No member of such a board of library trustees shall have any pecuniary interest in any contract entered into by such board.”
- It is incumbent upon any trustee to disqualify himself/herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists.

- Trustees must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the board even if they personally disagree.
- A trustee must respect the confidential nature of library business while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.
- Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of librarians who resist the censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.
- Trustees who accept library board responsibilities are expected to perform all the functions of library trustees

### **Article VIII – Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments to these by-laws must be presented in writing and read at a regular meeting of the Board. They may be adopted at any subsequent meeting of the Board by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board.

### **Article IX – Indemnification**

Members of the Board of Trustees are covered by the library’s Director’s and Officer’s Liability Policy, which covers their liability resulting from institutional or individual lawsuits.

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**Mission:** To enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning, literacy and cultural experiences.

**Vision:** Inspired communities where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect.

**Values:**

- Community
- Universal Access
- Customer Service
- Learning and Literacy
- Stewardship
- Integrity