



whatcom county
library system

TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

POLICY NUMBER: 2.02

SCOPE: Trustees of the Whatcom County Library System

As a trustee I recognize, support and promote Whatcom County Library System as an indispensable part of a thriving and livable community. I value the opportunity to serve our community through participation on this board.

- I recognize that my responsibilities are limited to policy-making, strategic planning, budgeting and evaluations.
 - I seek to comply with all national, state, and local laws and regulations regarding public libraries.
 - I will seek to follow legal and professional procedures.
 - Whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists, the board will discuss and agree by consensus whether disqualification is necessary.
 - I embrace the First Amendment and the right of our patrons to pursue knowledge for their enrichment and continued education. I believe in the freedom to speak, read, hear, and view ideas; and support unfettered access to all ideas.
 - I believe strategic planning involves input from WCLS staff and from the public.
 - I accept the challenge to work with our library administration, communities, and elected officials to plan for and ensure adequate funding for WCLS.
 - I understand the importance of participating in official board discussions and decisions and recognize that the authority for decisions rests with the whole board assembled in public meetings. I understand that board members should not take individual actions which may compromise the board.
 - When representing the board, I will not promote the interest of individuals, organizations, or political views which may be in conflict with the role of WCLS to serve our entire public.
 - As a member of the board, I have vested the WCLS Executive Director with the responsibility and authority for handling all staff, patron and vendor problems and complaints.
 - I will listen to all concerns of the public, refer all complaints to the Executive Director and act on such complaints at a public meeting only after they have been reviewed by the Executive Director and then only if further action is required.
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RELATED POLICIES: Board of Trustees Bylaws 2.01; Conflict of Interest Policy 2.03; Roles of the WCLS Library Board and the Executive Director 2.04.

STATUTORY REFERENCE: RCW 27.12.190 Library trustees – Appointment, election, removal, compensation; RCW 27.12.210 Library trustees – Organization – Bylaws – Powers and duties; RCW 42.17A.555 Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns; RCW 42.23 Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers; RCW 42.30 Open Public Meetings Act; RCW 42.56 Public Records Act; Washington Constitution (Article VII, Section 1): Taxes are to be used for public purposes only; Washington Constitution (Article VIII, Section 7): Credit not to be loaned; Washington Constitution (Article XI, Section 14): Private use of public funds prohibited.

ADOPTED by the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees February 21, 2006.

REVISED: September 16, 2014; February 18, 2014; May 19, 2009.

AGREED and ADOPTED by the following Trustee on the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees:

Trustee Signature				
Printed name:		Position Number		Date