

# Bellingham Public Library Policy

**Title:** 1.202 BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES CODE OF ETHICS

**Code:** 1 Administration Services

**Chapter:** 1.200 Library Board of Trustees

**Type of Policy:** Departmental

**Date Developed:** 15 July 2008

**Date Revised:** 19 November 2013

**Revised by:** Pam Kiesner

**Developed by:** Pam Kiesner, Faye Hill, Vicky Marshall

**Approved By:** Library Board of Trustees

Cancels:  
See Also:

**Library policy:**

[1.201 Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws](#)  
[1.203 Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees Job Description](#)

**Codes and Laws:**

[RCW 27.12.210 Library Trustees -- Organization -- Bylaws -- Powers and duties](#)  
[RCW 27.12.190 Library Trustees -- Appointment, election, removal, compensation](#)  
[RCW 42.30 Open Public Meetings Act](#)  
[Bellingham Municipal Code 3.08.010 Citizenship and Elector Requirements](#)  
[Bellingham City Charter 7.02 Library Boards](#)

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## **Scope**

This code of ethics guides the ethical decision-making for the Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees.

## **Policy/Conditions**

I value the opportunity to serve our community as a trustee of the Bellingham Public Library, and will support and promote our library and the benefits of the public library system.

I believe in the freedom to speak, read, hear and view ideas and support unfettered access to all ideas. I recognize that libraries connect people to ideas and that library users are free to form, hold and express their own beliefs.

I give full consideration to the library service needs of all community members as I help form decisions in public board meetings.

I will join with my fellow board members, library staff and the community in continuing study of the nature, value and direction of public libraries in our society in order to facilitate needed change and growth.

I will comply with all national, state and local laws and regulations regarding public libraries, and follow only legal, professional, and ethical procedures.

I recognize that my responsibilities are limited to policy-making decisions, planning, budgeting and evaluating the Library Director and the effectiveness of the library in serving the community.

I will participate in official board discussions and decisions, and recognize that authority rests with the whole board assembled in public meetings and will make no personal promises or take any private action which may compromise the board.

I accept the responsibility to work with our library administration and elected officials to provide adequate funding for our library that we may best serve our community and maintain optimum library standards.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I have invested the Library Director with the responsibility for handling all staff, patron and vendor problems and complaints. I will listen to all concerns of the public and refer complaints to the Library Director. Only after the Director's review will I act on any complaints that require further action.

**Library Board reviews this policy.**

- This policy is periodically reviewed, revised, or reaffirmed by the Library Board of Trustees.