



Montgomery County Public

328 North Maysville Street, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353

Mt. Sterling Branch 859-498-2404

Camargo Branch 859-499-4244

Montgomery County Public Library Board of Trustees Application

General Information About the Library and Board

The Mt. Sterling Library was established in 1871. The Mt. Sterling Library was incorporated by the state legislature in 1878, managed and funded by the City of Mt Sterling. In 1906, management of the library was turned over to the Mt. Sterling Woman's Club. By the 1970's, continued funds necessary to operate a functioning library were becoming nearly impossible to raise by volunteers, leading to a local petition drive to create a library taxing district and establish more permanent funding necessary to continue library service. Per KRS 173, the Montgomery County Library Taxing District was in November 1980. The vast majority of current library funding comes through local tax dollars (property tax and vehicles). Libraries across the state have not received state funding since FY 19-20. The only federal funds available to local libraries are occasional grants for specific items, and E-rate funding that is only available to reimburse internet and periodic technology costs.

In order to provide quality library service to the Montgomery County Public Library, the library requires a working team of an appropriately certified Library Director, qualified staff, and a volunteer Board of Trustees who are informed and able to make necessary decisions. It is critical that each person appointed to the Library Board be willing and able to perform their duties as a trustee. Per KRS, library board members receive no payments for their work. By statute, board members are required to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings, plus occasional special called meetings, with no more than three absences from regularly scheduled meetings in a calendar year.

The Montgomery County Public Library currently has a main library building in Mt. Sterling which offers books, computers, educational programs, and public meeting and collaborative spaces; the Camargo Branch, which offers, books, computers, and educational programs in a rent free space provided by the City of Camargo; and a bookmobile/outreach program which delivers materials to shut-ins and early learning centers, plus offers book shelf service to individuals and at neighborhood stops.

The Board of Trustees is composed of five members who are appointed by the Montgomery County Judge Executive. The term of office is four years. A trustee may be appointed to serve an uncompleted term and/or serve for two consecutive four year terms. Board members may serve additional terms, however, they must observe at least a 12 month break period after serving for an eight year, two term period.

What Library Board Members Do:

- Advocate for continued local access to library and information services
- Set tax rates for the library district within specific guidelines established by KRS
- Support promotion of intellectual freedom, freedom of speech, and information access
- Set library policy and work with library staff to develop programs based on policy, planning, and library mission/goals
- Plan for the future of library services and information access
- Create policy and promote funding levels to secure local library access for current visitors and for those in the future
- Advocate for funding through local, state, and federal resources
- Monitor community need, implementation, and effectiveness of library services
- Assist with promotion of library programs and services throughout the community
- Provide oversight of library finances, expenditures, investments and budgetary planning
- Employ a certified professional Library Director to manage staffing, daily operations, and procedures of the library

Appointment to the Library Board

Applications for Board Member appointments are reviewed several months prior to the completed terms of current board members. The current library board will provide a list of potential appointees to the Kentucky Department for Library and Archives for completion of a vetting process, then forwarded to the County Judge Executive for final appointment. Specific criteria of potential candidates will be evaluated to insure representation of citizens of the county. Specific criteria examined will include ...

- Geographic representation and distribution across the full board.
- Ability to serve in the full capacity as library board member.
- Willingness to complete local training, state level certification training for library board members, and participation in continuing education for library board members.
- No history or conviction of offenses that would be contradictory to the protection of public finances, public property, or the safety of any category of library visitor or staff.
- Overall community representation should be reflected in the full board makeup in regard to gender, race, socio-economic background, and personal beliefs.
- Due to library, local, and state public office ethics policies and KRS, library board members may not be more closely related than 2nd cousin to anyone currently working at the library. Library board members cannot have a financial interest in any business or organization doing business with the library. Library board members should not be closely related to any authority making board appointment.
- Based on local and state ordinances, library board members cannot serve in other public office positions or on other public appointed boards while also serving on the library board.

Board Member Expectations:

1. Appointees must commit the time that is necessary to carry out the duties of a Trustee. This includes time to become and stay knowledgeable about public library issues, to attend Board meetings, and to carry out Board assignments. There is a legally mandated limit to absences of meetings.
2. Appointees must be genuinely interested in public libraries and understand the importance of local access to public libraries as an effort to meet the needs of freedom of speech and information access; early learning, literacy, and life-long self-improvement; recreational reading and family info-tainment; and space for collaborative input, group learning, and public discourse.
3. Appointees should understand the local community, its social and cultural needs, and be willing to communicate those needs to other members of the board, and publicly as necessary.
4. Appointments must be able to work cooperatively with others to reach a common goal.
5. Appointees should be open-minded, intellectually curious, and respectful of the opinions of others.
6. Appointees should have the courage to plan creatively and direct the effective implementation of those plans.
7. Appointees must be able to withstand pressures and prejudice that would restrict or prevent equal library and information service to all.

As a group, library board members should possess a variety of expertise, skills, and personal attributes to reflect the diversity of the community. Please identify characteristics that describe you.

| Community Diversity | | Check best answer |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Age | | |
| | 18-30 | |
| | 31-40 | |
| | 41-50 | |
| | 51-60 | |
| | 61+ | |
| Gender | | |
| | Male | |
| | Female | |
| | Non-Binary | |
| Race | | |
| | Black | |
| | White | |
| | Other | |
| Education | | |
| | High School Graduate | |
| | Some College | |
| | Associate or Technical | |
| | Bachelor Degree | |
| | Graduate Degree or Higher | |
| Magistrate District | | |
| | District 1 | |
| | District 2 | |
| | District 3 | |
| Community Affiliations / Organizations | | |
| | Business / Corporate | |
| | Community Service Group / Club | |
| | Educational Organization | |
| | Media | |
| | Government / Political | |
| | Religious Organization | |
| | Social / Family Service | |
| | Other: Specify | |

| Professional Skills/Expertise Check all that apply | Check |
|---|-------|
| Organizational Management | |
| Finance / Fund Raising / Public Funds | |
| Education / Continued Learning | |
| Free Speech / Equal Access / Social Issues | |
| Law / Legal / Legislative Experience | |
| Marketing / Public Relations | |
| Personnel / Human Resources | |
| Social Work / Human Services | |
| Public Services / Public Admin | |
| Public Health / Health Admin | |
| Physical Facilities / Property Resources | |
| Strategic Planning | |
| Technology | |
| Other Expertise - Please Specify: | |

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Library Board Member. The library would not be able to function without the support and commitment of dedicated volunteer individuals like yourself.

As an appointed library board member, it is important that you be willing to serve as a library board member and act on behalf of the library, that you are willing to be knowledgeable of the board member position, and that you are truly interested in providing library and information services to the community.

Training, Board Development, and Willingness to Serve
Please answer and provide any details as necessary

I will attend local library board training.

I plan to achieve board member certification.

I am willing to commit to one regularly scheduled board meeting per month plus occasional special called meetings.

I am willing to support decisions necessary to maintain continued library service and access.

I am a library supporter and believe in the public library mission.

In what ways have you utilized library services in the past?

Do you currently serve on any other boards or have you been elected/appointed to any other positions, if yes please explain?

I am willing to communicate with elected officials, tax payers, and other members of the public in regard to the importance of public library service and as an effort to maintain / obtain adequate funding resources.

I am committed to intellectual freedom and equal access and will work to prevent censorship in our library.

I am not related to a library board member, library staff member, or county official authorized to appoint board members. If you are related please explain the extent of your kinship.

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address if different than mailing: _____

Cell: _____

About Library Board Meetings

Library Board Meetings are currently held on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. Trustees are expected to participate in each Regular Board Meeting and/or special called meetings. All Library Board Meetings are open to the public, all information produced by the Library Board is open record information available for public viewing. After being appointed, board members are expected to participate in training to become certified as a Library Trustee. Library Board Members are not compensated for their time or participation on the Library Board.

I am interested in serving on the Library Board because:

What is the role of the library in our community?

Why do you feel it is important to maintain public open public access to library and informational services?

Please list three different issues or needs that you believe Montgomery County is facing today, or will be facing in the next five years. Then suggest ways that the Public Library might address each in our county.