

Philosophical Principles Policy

Mission Statement

Van Buren District Library (VBDL) provides equitable access to a world of resources, reading, and lifelong learning.

Beliefs & Core Values

1. In support of our mission statement, Van Buren District Library values:
 - A. Offering professional service in a welcoming, inviting environment.
 - B. Providing valued library services to our communities in a fiscally responsible way.
 - C. Reading as a foundation for learning for all age groups.
 - D. Protecting intellectual freedom, where every individual has the right to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.
2. The Library Board and staff will discharge their duties in compliance with the American Library Association's (ALA) *Code of Ethics*.
3. The Library supports intellectual freedom and has adopted the ALA's *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretations including the statements on privacy, meeting rooms, exhibit spaces and bulletin boards.
4. Recognizing that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture, and is guaranteed by the Constitution, the Library endorses the ALA's *Freedom to Read Statement* and the *Freedom to View Statement*.
5. Van Buren District Library limits its advocacy to issues pertaining to the advancement of universal literacy, intellectual freedom, public library funding, and legislation affecting literacy, intellectual freedom, and public libraries generally. The Library does not comment on political or social issues outside of these areas.
6. Occasionally, the Library creates displays, reading lists, or bibliographies of resources relevant to political or social issues. These collections or lists are for informational purposes only and do not necessarily represent the views of Van Buren District Library, its Board, administration, or staff.
7. Views expressed by professional organizations with which Van Buren District Library is affiliated, or by Library staff members, that concern political or social issues, are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of Van Buren District Library, its Board, or administration, or staff.

Approved: February 22, 2022
Van Buren District Library Board of Trustees