

## **Jefferson County Public Library Board of Trustees Governing Style and Values Governance Policy 4.1**

The Library Board will govern lawfully, observing the principles of the Policy Governance model, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership, (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles, (e) collective decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) proactivity.

Accordingly:

1. The Library Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Library Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. Although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Library Board as a body, the Library Board will not substitute such expertise for its own judgment.
2. The Library Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad organizational policies reflecting the Library Board's values and perspectives. The Library Board's primary focus will be on the Library's intended long-term impact on the residents of Jefferson County, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
3. The Library Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continual development of governance capability.
4. Although the Library Board can change its governing policies at any time, it will conscientiously observe those currently in effect.
5. All policies of the Library Board are contained in this document, and they remain in effect, unless amended or deleted by Board action.
6. The Library Board will ensure continual development of its governance capability through orientation and professional development of new Library Board trustees to, and periodic evaluation of, the Library Board's governance process and these policies.
7. The Library Board will operate in all ways mindful of its accountability obligation to the "ownership", and will allow no officer, individual or committee of the Library Board to prevent the Library Board from fulfilling this commitment.
8. The Library Board will support the principles of intellectual freedom as expressed in the Library's broad, diverse collections, programs and services.
9. The Library Board will monitor and discuss its process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Library Board activity and discipline to Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies.

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**Document Review Dates**

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