

Onondaga County Public Library Board of Trustees Code of Ethics

Trustees of the Onondaga County Public Library are accountable for the resources of the library and for ensuring that the library provides the best possible service to its community.

Every OCPL Trustee makes a personal commitment to contribute the time and energy to faithfully carry out their duties and responsibilities effectively and with absolute truth, honor, and integrity.

- Trustees must respect the opinions of their colleagues and conduct themselves respectfully when they disagree with viewpoints different than their own.
- Trustees must comply with all the laws, rules, and regulations that apply to them and to the library.
- Trustees must fulfill their responsibilities without being swayed by partisan interests, public pressure, or fear of criticism.
- Trustees must not engage in discrimination of any kind and shall uphold library patrons' rights to privacy in their use of library resources.
- Trustees must clearly distinguish, in their actions and statements, between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the library, acknowledging and supporting the formal position of the Board even if they disagree.
- ~~Trustees must respect the confidential nature of library business and not disclose such information to anyone. Trustees must also be aware of and comply with Freedom of Information laws.~~
- Change point above to either:
 - Trustees must maintain confidentiality regarding all matters included in Section 105 (Conduct of Executive Sessions) of the New York State Open Meetings Law.
 - Trustees must maintain confidentiality regarding all matters discussed during executive sessions held under Section 105 of the New York State Open Meetings Law.
- Trustees must avoid situations in which their position or access to privileged library information could result in personal or financial gain for themselves or others.
- A Trustee must immediately disqualify themselves whenever the appearance of, or an actual, conflict of interest exists.
- Trustees must not use their position to gain unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others from the library or from those who do business with the library.
- Trustees must not interfere with the management responsibilities of the Director or with the supervision of library staff.
- Trustees must support the mission of the library in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

- Trustees must dedicate the time and energy necessary to fulfill their duties, including attending meetings and reviewing materials beforehand.

Note. Adapted from *Public Library Trustee Ethics Statement* by United for Libraries, n.d., American Library Association, <https://www.ala.org/united/trustees/orgtools>