

**Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
June 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

The Belleville Area District Library Board will meet in person in the library's 2nd floor Conference Room.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, Jackson-Smith, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Public Hearing 2025-26 Budget
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Building-Cichewicz
 - B. Bylaws-Priest
 - C. Finance-Stoudemire
 - a. Approve 2025-26 Budget
 - b. Approve 2024-25 Amended Budget
 - c. Fund Balance Allocation per GASB 54
 - D. Outreach-Jackson-Smith
 - E. Personnel-Priest
 - F. Policy-Fleming
 - G. Art
8. Approve Accounts Payable
9. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
10. Trustee Comments
11. Chair Comments
12. Adjournment

Any citizen wishing to provide input or ask questions about any agenda item may speak during the meeting's Public Comments section or forward comments to the Library Director in advance by leaving a message at 734-699-3291 or via the Contact Information found at www.belleville.lib.mi.us. Any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the library at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, using the above contact information.

Next Regular BADL Board Meeting: July 8, 2025, at 7:30 PM

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Dr. Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire.
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to approve the May 13, 2025, Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve April 8, 2025 Minutes:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the April 8, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Courtenay attended the meeting with her daughter to understand more about the inner workings of the library.
6. **Library Short- and Long-Term Life and ADD Insurance:** Director Suchy recommended a change to the short- and long-term insurance company from The Standard to Principal Group. The library experienced issues with the old plan. Principal will provide additional services at a lower rate.
Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to change insurance companies from The Standard to Principal Financial Group taking effect in June. The motion was carried unanimously.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** The new automatic door openers for the restrooms have been installed. The landscaper hopes that the browning bushes in the parking lot will revive this summer.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No Report.
 - C. **Finance:** Stoudemire presented the 3rd quarter budget.
 - D. **Outreach:** No Report.
 - E. **Personnel:** No Report.
 - F. **Policy:** No Report.
 - G. **Art:** No Report.
8. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Director's Report:** See attached. The library received an invoice from Wayne County for the penal fines that it owes. Suchy and the library's attorney are confident that the amount on the invoice is correct. The County is willing to work

with the library on a payment plan. The board discussed whether or not to pay in full or to enter into a payment plan. Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to forgo future penal fines until the balance of \$122,733.64 is paid off. A vote was taken. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1. The motion was approved. The board would like to know what policies the County will put into place to prevent future penal fine miscalculations. The board could revisit the option of paying in full at a future date.

10. Trustee Comments:

Fleming: The library's past jazz session was the best one yet! He enjoyed the ALA president visit, it was wonderful. Staff did a wonderful job; Amy O'Brien did a great job giving tours of the library.

Priest: The ALA President visit was really good. The theme of "everyone belongs" was great and needed.

Cichewicz: Commented that she liked how the ALA President shared about her Native American background and how they make decisions as a group, much like how the library board does.

Jackson-Smith: Looking forward to participating in more library programs now that she is finished teaching for the semester.

Stoudemire: Announced the mayor recommended and the city council voted to appoint her as the CFO of the City of Detroit.

Hughes-Grubbs: Is glad to be here with everyone.

11. Chair Comments: Glad to be here too. Also, glad that the board did the heavy lifting with the hard topics earlier. She appreciates this group.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Fleming, seconded by Priest to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Belleville Area District Library Budget						
	2023-24 Audited	2024-25 Approved	2024-25 Prop. Amend	2025-26 Proposed		
Revenues						
Millage	2,546,989	2,600,000	2,675,000	2,800,000		
Grant Revenue	6,343	6,300	7,556	7,000		
Interest Income	331	20,000	18,000	25,000		
State Aid	44,663	43,000	46,000	47,000		
Local Library Fines and Fees	33,648	62,200	105,300	66,300		
Late Fees		500	1,000	1,000		
Penal Fines		36,000	79,000	40,000		
Lost Book Fees		1,700	1,300	1,300		
Copies/Fax Fees		24,000	24,000	24,000		
Contributions and Donations	4,764	2,500	1,000	1,000		
GRAND TOTAL REVENUES	2,636,738	2,734,000	2,852,856	2,946,300		
Expenditures						
Salaries	1,118,063	1,218,000	1,218,000	1,292,000		
Benefits and FICA	371,380	414,177	414,177	451,838		
F.I.C.A.		93,177	93,177	98,838		
Employee Health Insurance - Library		240,000	240,000	268,000		
Retirement (MERS Defined Contribution)		81,000	81,000	85,000		
Books and Materials	203,803	275,000	275,000	285,000		
Supplies	42,834	55,000	55,000	55,000		
Professional Fees	24,243	50,000	50,000	52,000		
Audit		9,500	9,500	10,000		
Finance		13,500	13,500	15,000		
Legal		7,000	7,000	7,000		
Architect		10,000	10,000	10,000		
Other		10,000	10,000	10,000		
Bank Fees		4,000	2,000	2,000		
Dues	3,805	5,000	5,000	5,000		
Contracted Services	102,843	130,000	117,000	138,000		
Contracted Services		25,000	25,000	28,000		
Delivery		6,000	6,000	6,000		
Payroll		15,000	15,000	15,000		
Acquisitions Services		23,000	10,000	24,000		
Automation System & Cataloging		41,000	41,000	45,000		

Belleville Area District Library Budget					
	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26
	Audited	Approved	Prop. Amend	Proposed	
Outside Maintenance		20,000	20,000	20,000	
Telephone & Telecommunications	23,945	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
Telephone		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Telecommunications		16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Insurance - Liability & Worker's Comp	23,346	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
Utilities	50,996	86,000	66,000	70,000	70,000
Repairs and Maintenance	75,483	90,000	170,000	150,000	150,000
Printing and Publications	14,021	24,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Postage	8,416	12,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Computer Hardware/Software	79,633	80,000	115,000	120,000	120,000
Capital Outlay (Equipment/Furniture)	894	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Wayne County Penal Fines			40,000	40,000	40,000
Miscellaneous	8,925	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Travel and Meetings		8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Library Programs		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Other		4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,152,630	2,567,177	2,681,177	2,814,838	
Beginning Fund Balance	5,486,061	5,598,921	5,970,169	6,181,848	
Change to Fund Balance	484,108	166,823	171,679	131,462	
Approp. of Restricted Bldg Funds*			40,000		
Year End Fund Balance	5,970,169	5,765,744	6,181,848	6,313,310	
Funds committed to the following fiscal year	1,230,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Funds restricted - building contributions	459,387	459,387	419,387	419,387	419,387
Funds assigned - future capital improvements		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Remaining Funds	4,280,782	2,006,357	2,462,461	2,493,923	
*Appropriation of Restricted building contribution funds for automated door project					

**Belleville Area District Library
Budget
Debt Retirement Fund budget
June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2026**

Fund Balance at June 30, 2024	320,971	
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025	Approved 6/11/2024	Prop. Amended 6/10/2025
Revenue:		
Estimated Tax Levy	\$ 947,000	940,000
Expenditures:		
Principal	620,000	620,000
Interest	361,450	361,450
Fees		
Total	981,450	981,450
Fund Balance at June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 274,039</u>	<u>\$ 279,521</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026	6/10/2025 Proposed	
Revenue:		
Estimated Tax Levy	\$ 950,000	
Expenditures:		
Principal	645,000	
Interest	339,750	
Fees		
Total	984,750	
Fund Balance at June 30, 2026	<u>\$ 244,771</u>	

Belleville Area District Library

Date: 06/03/2025

Time: 6:03 PM

Page: 1

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Name	Check Description	Amount
05/13/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & matls	1,153.23
05/13/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	dental	935.84
05/13/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	lawn care April 2025	116.00
05/13/2025	DEMCO	office supplies	391.98
05/13/2025	DTE ENERGY	Sumpter heat & electric	179.76
05/13/2025	MEC, INC	bldg/hvac repairs & maint	3,475.00
05/13/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership Renewal - L. Lore	85.00
05/13/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office & bldg supplies	705.02
05/13/2025	TECHSOUP GLOBAL	Microsoft Office upgrade	11,676.00
05/13/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	coputer hardeare, shared tech, telephone	36,380.97
05/13/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	April 2025 Placements	85.05
05/13/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	office & prog. supplies	269.63
05/13/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & matls	908.62
05/14/2025	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	Service & Repair order	1,232.37
05/27/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Office Supplies & books	243.79
05/27/2025	BELLEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LakeFest Library Program	50.00
05/27/2025	CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	books & matls	143.90
05/27/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	may telephone service	327.13
05/27/2025	DTE ENERGY	4th Street - gas bill	688.04
05/27/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	April 2025 Friends Payout	722.05
05/27/2025	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Sumpter Branch alarm service	56.96
05/27/2025	JUSTIN VILLA	Intro to AI program on 5/29/25	125.00
05/27/2025	LIBERTY MUTUAL	Workers Comp Renewal	1,705.00
05/27/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office supplies	398.40
05/27/2025	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	Serv. Contract - 6/1 - 8/31/25	1,627.05
05/27/2025	PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPA	short and long term disability insurance	601.56
05/27/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	May 2025 acct services	1,025.00
05/27/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	April Bookbilling	11,336.68
05/27/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	Maintenance, Mats	167.77
05/27/2025	UNITED HEALTHCARE	Employee Health Insurance	17,378.49
05/27/2025	WOODLANDS LIBRARY COOPERATIVE	State & Fed labor law poster	60.00
31	Checks Total:		94,251.29
31	Bank Total:		94,251.29
31	Grand Total:		94,251.29

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JUNE 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

MAY: Adults: 23 Youth: 11

LIBRARY VISITS	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	12,856	10,850	18.49%
Fiscal Year	134,584	122,724	9.66%
TOTAL CIRC	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	19,770	19,567	1.04%
Fiscal Year	225,654	230,222	-1.98%
ADULT PROGRAMMING	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	254	212	19.81%
Fiscal Year	2,080	1,725	20.58%
YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	414	2,509	-83.50%
Fiscal Year	4,426	6,569	-32.62%
REF. QUESTIONS	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	1,846	1,745	5.79%
Fiscal Year	18,531	18,301	1.26%
INTERNET USE	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	1,059	1,054	0.47%
Fiscal Year	10,779	11,051	-2.46%
YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	2024/25	2023/24	% change
May	287	279	2.87%
Fiscal Year	2,813	3,079	-8.64%

BUILDING: We are scheduling Otis Elevator to perform 5-year maintenance and testing of the elevator so that we can pass the state inspection. Additionally, Otis Elevator brought a door lock monitoring proposal to our attention in response to a new State of Michigan code. The proposal is for \$27,000. I am trying to get more information about this.

PENAL FINES: I notified Wayne County of our intention to apply our future penal fine revenue to the amount we owe. Our attorney provided us with a written Waiver and Release proposal which we gave to the County. The Treasurer's Office has forwarded this proposal to their corporate counsel.

STAFF: The adult services librarians have evaluated their division of duties now that Rachel Davies has begun working full-time, replacing Kelly Skinner.

PROGRAMMING: Sign-up begins June 16 for the library's summer reading incentive programs. This year's theme is Color Our World, and the library will host events for all ages in June and July. It is imperative that kids read during the summer months so that they do not lose all of the reading skills they learned during the school year. The library's programs are designed to make reading be fun and rewarding! The library will host two programs in honor of Juneteenth. *History Trivia Night: African American History Edition* will take place on Thursday, June 12, at 7 pm, and *Juneteenth: What Happened June 19, 1865* will take place on Monday, June 23 at 6:30 pm.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT: We have a new addition to the library family. Stop by and visit our tortoise who has taken up residence at the children's reference desk. We are having a naming contest for the tortoise, and results will be announced soon. The tortoise is on long term loan to us, courtesy of a friend of youth services librarian Karen Dubke. Kids and families are encouraged to check out one of our many books about tortoises in order to learn more about them.



Library funding is under threat. Find out how you can show up for libraries: ala.org/showup.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | MAY 21, 2025

ALA welcomes IMLS staff return and select grant reinstatements, cautiously optimistic about national case



Washington – ALA welcomed the return of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) staff to work and the reinstatement of some IMLS grants, which had been terminated following President Trump’s March 14 [Executive Order 14238](#).

The Attorneys General of 21 states filed a federal lawsuit, *Rhode Island v. Trump*, to halt the administration's dismantling of IMLS. In response, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction ordering the Administration to restore terminated IMLS staff and grants to recipients in the 21 plaintiff states. On May 20, the Administration filed a status report describing its compliance with that order.

ALA President Cindy Hohl said, "ALA is pleased that, according to the status report, IMLS staff are returning to work. ALA has advocated for IMLS for decades because the American public depends on libraries for services vital to their daily lives, and libraries depend on IMLS funding and expertise to fulfill their communities' needs.

"We are encouraged that the courts acknowledge the irreparable harm that shuttering IMLS would do to libraries. The injunction in *Rhode Island v. Trump* will allow grants for library services to resume for ALA and for libraries in many communities across the nation. This is particularly urgent in small, rural and Tribal communities, where federal funding is crucial to their survival.

"These developments are critical first steps in our shared goal to renew and amplify the need for IMLS after the administration's abrupt and illegal actions eliminate it. Even as we celebrate this progress, we must remember that these wins are temporary and only as good as the extent to which they are upheld throughout the appeals process until the judge issues a ruling on the case based on its merits. We are cautiously optimistic, but library advocates will not rest until libraries in every state receive the funding promised and IMLS is back in full force to meet the information needs of all Americans."

While the May 20 status report describes the Administration's compliance with the preliminary injunction, the Administration also has filed an appeal of that order and requested a stay of the order pending appeal.

ALA has filed its own challenge of the Administration's actions to eliminate IMLS, *ALA v. Sonderling*. The judge in that case issued a temporary restraining order on May 1 to halt further actions to dismantle the agency. A ruling on ALA's request for a preliminary injunction in that case is expected by May 29.

President Hohl said, "IMLS staff have proven themselves to be efficient and effective public servants in fulfilling the agency's mission, even with modest resources. ALA appreciates the dedication of IMLS staff and welcomes them back to their work!"

As questions surface related to the reinstatement of grants, ALA urges individual grantees to consult with their legal counsel.

###

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PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY (PPA)

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POLITICS

Donald Trump's Library of Congress fight is really about the separation of powers



BY SEUNG MIN KIM

Updated 8:03 PM EDT, May 16, 2025

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not really about the books.

[President Donald Trump's](#) abrupt firing of [top officials at the Library of Congress](#) and equally sudden attempt [to appoint a slate of loyalists as replacements](#) has instead morphed into an enormous fight over the separation of powers, as the White House tries to wrest control of what has for centuries been a legislative institution.

It's a [power struggle with potentially vast consequences](#). The Library of Congress not only stores the world's largest collection of books but also an office overseeing reams of copyrighted material of untold value.

There is a research institute that has long been protected from outside influence. Its servers house extremely sensitive information regarding [claims of workplace violations on Capitol Hill](#), as well as payments and other financial data for the legislative branch's more than 30,000 employees. There's even speculation that the whole affair is tied to an ongoing debate over whether [big tech companies can use copyrighted material](#) for artificial intelligence systems.

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Because of this, the battle over control of the Library of Congress has prompted Republican leaders on Capitol Hill to deliver rare pushback against a president who has pressed to expand the boundaries of his own power to enact his priorities. [Senate Majority Leader John Thune](#) and other Republicans have been talking with the White House about a potential path to détente.

RELATED STORIES



Trump names Todd Blanche acting librarian of Congress



The 225-year-old Library of Congress has never had a moment like this



Judge denies request to block Trump from removing Copyright Office director

This all has left the library in a bizarre state of purgatory.

For now, Trump's choices for interim library leaders — most notably [Todd Blanche, a deputy attorney general](#) who had represented the president in [his criminal proceedings](#) — have not appeared to challenge the assertion by the library that one of its veteran officials would be the acting head. It would be unheard of for an executive branch official such as Blanche to simultaneously serve in the legislative branch, according to experts.

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All the while, the agency-slashing Department of Government Efficiency has been trying to access legislative branch offices — with leaders there refusing.

"This egregious overreach into the legislature by the executive branch is just unwarranted and, we believe, unprecedented," said New York Rep. Joe Morelle, the top Democrat on the House Administration Committee, which oversees the Library of Congress.

One firing, then another ... then questions about who steps in

The controversy began to unfold publicly last week, when Librarian of Congress [Carla Hayden was fired](#) in a terse email from a White House official. She had just one year left in her 10-year term.

Then this week, Blanche was tapped by the White House to be the interim librarian, and two other Justice Department officials were chosen for other senior library posts. Those officials, Brian Nieves and Paul Perkins, tried unsuccessfully to enter the U.S. Copyright Office on Monday, but left voluntarily after library officials called Capitol Police.

Thune told The Associated Press that Congress was "not entirely" consulted ahead of Trump's dismissal of Hayden.

Lawmakers want to ensure that "congressional legislative branch equities are protected," Thune said. He speculated that discussions with the White House to resolve the standoff would bleed into next week.

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The White House has said Trump was within his authority to dismiss [Hayden, a former head](#) of the library systems in Baltimore. It cited "quite concerning" behavior from Hayden involving diversity, equity and inclusion efforts as well as books for children that the White House found inappropriate.

A copy of virtually every book published in the U.S. is sent to the Copyright Office, then the library decides whether to include it in the main collection. No one under 16 can get a reader card to access the collection.

Existing regulations and past practices call for an acting librarian to come from the Library of Congress' current ranks if there is a vacancy. But the White House has argued that a law governing federal vacancies applies, even though the 1998 law deals with the executive branch, according to two people familiar with the discussions.

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When Nieves and Perkins showed up on Monday, they held a letter that invoked the vacancies law to justify their appointments, according to one of the people.

Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin, who leads the panel overseeing funding for the Library of Congress, argued that in practice, the librarian is not a legislative branch employee, saying: "It's an appointment by the president of the United States, because we have to confirm her."

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Worries about research services, information about workers, and more

Yet there is deep concern among lawmakers and aides about any unjustified intrusion of the administration into the Library of Congress and its operations.

Especially worrisome to them is potential meddling with the Congressional Research Service, known as the nonpartisan think tank of Capitol Hill. It fields roughly 75,000 requests from members of Congress every year for research, legal expertise and other information critical for policymaking.

The discussions between lawmakers and the Congressional Research Service are considered so sensitive that they are protected under the speech or debate clause of the Constitution, which shields members of Congress from being questioned -- such as in court -- about official legislative acts.

The service's "utility and trustworthiness would be substantially undercut if these inquiries were not protected or the Administration sought to shape responses to reflect its priorities," said Hope O'Keefe, a former associate general counsel at the Library of Congress.

It stores financial information about legislative branch employees, who include not just those at the Library of Congress, lawmakers and their aides, but employees of the Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Accountability Office. The library also houses the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, which functions as the human resources office of the legislative branch, fielding complaints about harassment, discrimination and other workplace violations.

DOGE officials reached out to the workplace office this week to discuss assigning one of its teams there, according to emails obtained by the AP. The office promptly denied DOGE's request, noting that it was a legislative branch agency and not subject to Trump's executive order on streamlining government, the emails show. DOGE made similar requests to the GAO this week, according to other emails and letters seen by the AP.

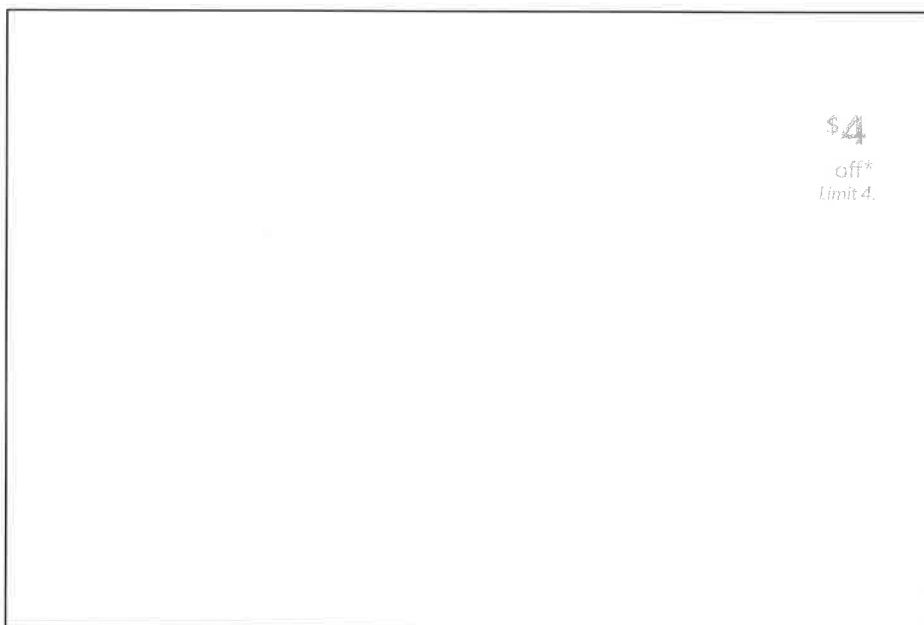
Robert Newlen, the principal deputy librarian, told library staffers shortly after Hayden's firing that he will serve as the acting librarian. He said in a note this week that while the White House had appointed its own acting librarian, "we have not yet received direction from Congress about how to move forward," indicating that the library was defying Trump's wishes.

California Sen. Alex Padilla, the top Democrat on the Senate Rules Committee, this week said flatly that Newlen is the acting librarian of Congress. Asked whether Blanche was respecting that, Padilla said, "that's my understanding."

But a White House official stressed on Thursday that Trump selected Blanche to be the acting librarian. The official, granted anonymity because of the ongoing private discussions with lawmakers, said Trump chose Blanche because the president is "appointing highly-qualified individuals who are wholeheartedly committed to advancing the America-first agenda." The Justice Department did not respond to a request for comment.

Library drama could be linked to AI debate

Some suspect that the Copyright Office is the true aim of the administration. Housed in the Library of Congress with a leader chosen by the librarian, the office accepts millions of copies of copyrighted material such as books, artwork and music every year as part of the copyright registration process.



Shortly before the director of the office, Shira Perlmuter, was fired, her office released a report that questioned whether it was legal for the tech industry to use copyrighted material to "train" their artificial intelligence systems. Tech companies contend that doing so is legal when used for educational or research purposes or creating something new. Perlmuter's report said doing so, in some circumstances, would go beyond established boundaries of fair use when the AI-generated content is competing with creative works made by people.

The material there is extremely valuable. For instance, copyright violation damages for the office's existing collection — if, for instance, tech companies scraped the material for AI purposes and then later were found liable for copyright infringement — would likely exceed \$1.5 trillion, according to a person familiar with the calculations.

Morelle noted that the firing came "one day after, and I doubt there's any coincidence to this, a report which is in many ways at odds with what Elon Musk wants to do around intellectual property and copyright." Musk is the billionaire outside adviser for Trump who operates his own AI startup, called xAI. The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Associated Press writer Alanna Durkin Richer contributed to this report.



SEUNG MIN KIM

Kim covers the White House for The Associated Press. She joined the AP in 2022 and is based in Washington. Kim is also a political analyst for CNN.



Endurance swimmer closes in circumnavigation of Martha's Vineyard ahead of 'Jaws' 50th

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7 Things Trump Plans To Do for Seniors On SS In 2025

Seniors at Brighton Should Claim These Benefits



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MOST READ



No right to information at public libraries, 5th Circuit rules

Published: May 24, 2025 at 8:53 PM

Mike Heuer

May 24 (UPI) -- A Texas public library did not violate patrons' right to free speech by removing books due to their content, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled on Friday.

The entire appellate court, in a 10-7 decision, overturned federal district court and appellate court rulings finding the Llano County (Texas) Library System erred in removing 17 books due to their content.

The courts initially ruled that library officials violated plaintiffs' right to receive information under the Constitution's Free Speech Clause by removing the books and ordered that they be returned to the library's shelves.

The plaintiffs are seven library patrons who in 2022 filed a lawsuit challenging the removal of 17 books due to their "content on race, gender and sexuality as well as some children's books that contained nudity," the [Austin American-Statesman](#) reported.

A federal district court and a three-judge appellate court panel each ruled against the library.

The Fifth Circuit appellate court's en banc panel on Friday reversed the prior court decisions and dismissed the free speech claims against the Lloyd County Library System for two reasons.

No right to receive information

"Plaintiffs cannot invoke a right to receive information to challenge a library's removal of books," Judge Stuart Kyle Duncan wrote in the majority decision.

"Supreme Court precedent sometimes protects one's right to receive someone else's speech," Duncan continued.

"Plaintiffs would transform that precedent into a brave new right to receive information from the government in the form of taxpayer-funded library books," he said. "The First Amendment acknowledges no such right."

Instead, a patron could order a book online, buy it from a bookstore or borrow it from a friend, Duncan wrote.

"All Llano County has done here is what libraries have been doing for two centuries: decide which books they want in their collection," he said.

Such decisions are very subjective, and it's impossible to find widespread agreement on a standard to determine which books should or should not be made available, the majority ruling says.

"May a library remove a book because it dislikes its ideas? Because it finds the book vulgar? Sexist? Inaccurate? Outdated? Poorly written?" Duncan wrote. "Heaven knows."

The plaintiffs "took the baffling view that libraries cannot even remove books that espouse racism," Duncan added.

Public library collections are 'government speech'

The majority decision also ruled that the library's collection decisions are government speech and not subject to First Amendment-based free speech challenges.

Duncan said many precedents affirm that "curating and presenting a collection of third-party speech" is an "expressive activity."

Examples include editors choosing which stories to publish, television stations choosing which programs to air and museum officials deciding what to feature in exhibits.

"In the same way, a library expresses itself by deciding how to shape its collection," Duncan wrote.

He cited another court's ruling that said governments speak through public libraries by selecting which books to make available and which ones to exclude.

"From the moment they emerged in the 19th century, public libraries have shaped their collections to present what they held to be worthwhile literature," Duncan said.

"Libraries curate their collections for expressive purposes," he said. "Their collection decisions are, therefore, government speech."

He called arguments made in the case "over-caffeinated" and said plaintiffs warned of "book bans," "pyres of burned books," and "totalitarian regimes."

"Where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people," one brief filed by plaintiffs claimed, according to Duncan.

"Take a deep breath, everyone. No one is banning (or burning) books," he said.

Won't 'join the book burners'

Judge Stephen Higginson was joined by six others in a lengthy dissenting opinion.

The Supreme Court in prior rulings affirmed the right to receive information and the right to be "free from officially prescribed orthodoxy," Higginson said.

"Public libraries have long kept the people well informed by giving them access to works expressing a broad range of information and ideas," Higginson wrote.

"But this case concerns the politically motivated removal of books from the Llano County Public Library system by government officials in order to deny public access to disfavored ideas," he said.

The majority "forsakes core First Amendment principles and controlling Supreme Court law," he wrote.

"Because I would not have our court 'join the book burners,'" Higginson said, "I dissent."

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HISTORY Trivia Night

AFRICAN/AMERICAN
HISTORY EDITION

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025
7PM - 8:30 PM
COZADD ROOM



REGISTER TODAY TO GET IN
ON THE TRIVIA FUN.

JOIN HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS, NIKKI PICKERL FOR A HISTORY TRIVIA NIGHT!
ENJOY TRIVIA QUESTIONS ALL ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
1ST & 2ND PLACE PRIZES!



**IN HONOR OF
JUNETEENTH
ALL RED SNACKS!**



YOUTH SUMMER READING PROGRAM

JUNE 15 - JULY 31

AGES 0-18

Color your summer with excitement at the library! Sign up with Beanstack and start reading June 15th! For every hour read, earn a prize. You can start collecting prizes June 23rd. Receive up to 10 prizes, or until supplies last. Last day to record reading is July 31st.



Track your reading on the **beanstack** app



VISIT OUR
EVENTS PAGE
HERE FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
AND TO
REGISTER FOR
EVENTS



 BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY



Friends of the
BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Summer Fun!

Some programs occur twice in the same day! Please only attend one. If program requires registration, go to <https://bit.ly/BADLEventsCalendar> to sign up.

Tuesday, June 24, 11 am & 1 pm – Art of Magic: A2 Magic will bring together art and magic for this spectacular show. All ages.

Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 pm – Hula Hoop Dancing: In this hands-on program, we will see hula hoop dancing and learn some hula fun! Ages 6 & up. *Please Register.*

Saturday, June 28, 2 pm – Bluey Party: Meet Bluey Heeler and participate in imaginative fun for all ages.

Tuesday, July 1, 11 am & 1 pm – Shells, Scales, and Pollywog Tails: Discover frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, and snakes through games, artifacts, and some live animals. With the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. All ages.

Tuesday, July 8, 11 am – Author Visit: Hear stories by Michigan picture book author and illustrator Heidi Woodward Sheffield. Learn a bit about being an author and illustrator, and see a live sketch demo. Ages 4-10.

Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 pm – Bubble Dance Party: Get ready for bubbles! All ages.

Tuesday, July 15, 11 am & 1 pm – Cotton Candy Colors: Learn the science behind this colorful and tasty treat. All ages.

Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 – Kids Like-Stained-Glass Art: Using watercolor paints and fun techniques, create a piece of art that looks like stained glass. Ages 6-11. *Please Register.*

Tuesday, July 22, 11 am & 1 pm – Comedy Magic Show: Laugh and be astonished with Gordon Russ the Magician. All ages.

Saturday, July 26, 11 am – The Reptarium: Meet up close different types of snakes, lizards, turtles, a baby alligator and more! All ages.

Tuesday, July 29, 11 am – Joe Reilly Concert: Dance and feel the music that comes from the heart at this interactive concert. All ages.

Teen Programs

Saturday, July 12 @ 2 pm - Teen Oreo Taste Challenge: Blind taste test some unique Oreo flavors. Ages 12-18. *Please Register.*

Friday, July 18 @ 2 pm - Teen Wire Workshop: Learn how to twist wire and beads into fun keychains, jewelry, and more. Ages 12-18. *Please Register.*

Wednesday, July 23 @ 6:30 pm – Teen Like-Stained-Glass Art: Create a fun and simple piece that looks like stained glass, but much simpler. Ages 12 & up. This program is for teens and adults! *Please register according to age.*

Friday, July 25 @ 2 pm - Teen Movie: Eat popcorn and watch Jurassic Park (PG 13). Ages 12-18.

Little Artists

Come hear colorful stories and sing songs with Ms. Karen, then put what you've learned into action with art for our youngest library goers!

For ages 0-5 June 26, July 10 & 24 11 am

Adult Summer Reading

Jun 14 - Aug 22

**Sign up online to
get started!
Opens June 14th.**

bellevilemi.beanstack.com

**Create a free account to track your
progress. Come upstairs to the Adult
Information Desk to claim your prizes!**



BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

(734) 699-3291

Main Library:

167 4th St. Belleville, MI 48111

Sumpter Media Center:

23465 Sumpter Rd.

Belleville, MI 48111

www.belleville.lib.mi.us



COLOR OUR WORLD



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Earn Prizes & Raffle Tickets!



1. Log Books

You pick what books you'd like to read! Any format you prefer:

- print
- graphic novels
- ebook
- audiobooks



2. Attend Programs

Attend any library event, program, or book group! Such as:

- ★ Our new Quiet Reading Book Club!
- ★ What Happened on Juneteenth? (Jun 23)
- ★ Intro to Crystals (Jul 16)
- ★ Like-Stained-Glass Art (Jul 23)
- ★ Live Jazz in the Library! (Jul 30)
- ★ Computer Classes
- ★ Write Stuff Writers' Group
- ★ Comic Fest (Aug 2)
- ★ UFOs Caught on Camera! (Aug 19)
- ★ SO MANY book groups!



For more details about our programs and to register go to

belleville.libcal.com

Track your progress toward prizes at Beanstack. All participants who log at least one book/program will be entered into our prize drawing.

- 1 Book/Program = candy or paintbrush pen
- 3 Books = tie dye frisbee or lens cloth
- 5 Books = canvas tote bag

Program ends August 22. Final prize drawing will take place the following week!



THE QUIET READING BOOK CLUB

First and Third Mondays, Starting June 16, 7pm

at the Belleville Area District Library!

**Bring your books and your friends for an evening of quietly reading together, without the reading assignments!
Bring a book or we can help you find your next read!**

Refreshments provided.

**Registration optional but available
for event reminders.**



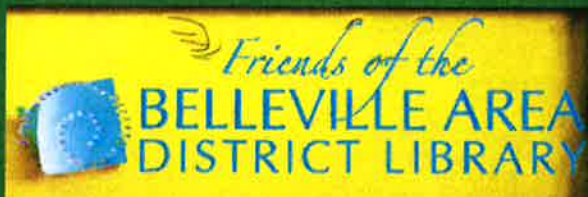
JUNETEENTH: WHAT HAPPENED JUNE 19, 1865?

**BY ANTHONY BROGDON,
AUTHOR OF BLACK BUSINESS BOOK, PRODUCER OF BUSINESS IN
THE BLACK, AND HOST OF STRONG INSPIRATIONS ON YOUTUBE.**

**WHO WILL LEAD US IN A DISCUSSION ON
WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT FATEFUL DAY,
JUNE 19, 1865, INCLUDING HOW SLAVES
GAINED THEIR FREEDOM, WHAT STARTED
THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE STATUS OF WAR
BATTLES. HE'LL TALK ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN PRESIDENT LINCOLN
CLAIMED VICTORY AND WHY THOSE IN
GALVESTON, TEXAS, WERE CONSIDERED
THE LAST TO LEARN OF THE NEWS.**



**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025
@ 6:30 PM**



SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP FOR A REMINDER.