



## Library Display Policy

### Purpose

The Fitchburg Library's Display Policy provides a basis for the display of Library materials curated by Library staff, informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made, and promotes the purposes of the Library's mission and vision.

### Library Vision and Mission Statements

#### Vision Statement

- The Fitchburg Public Library fosters and supports a lifetime of learning, curiosity, and discovery in a diverse and vibrant community.

#### Mission Statement

- The Fitchburg Public Library inspires and connects people of all ages through a variety of enriching, innovative, and engaging experiences offered in welcoming spaces to enhance and strengthen our diverse community.

### Displays

The Fitchburg Library endorses the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights," "Freedom to Read," and "Freedom to View" statements, which are available at the bottom of this document.

Library staff use the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- Community needs and interest
- Availability of display space
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to Library collections, resources, exhibits, and programs

The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in both dedicated displays, and in books displayed on the Library's shelves. Displaying a topic does not constitute an endorsement by the Fitchburg Library or the City of Fitchburg of the content of the display, or of the views expressed in materials on display. Library displays exist in many formats, including but not limited to signs, flyers, artwork, and collections of Library materials.

Library displays will not exclude topics, media, or other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. The Library preserves the right of citizens to obtain information on all sides of potentially controversial issues so that each individual can decide for themselves the value of opposing ideas. In representing various sides of a question, the Library provides citizens with reliable sources of information on which to base informed decisions in their daily lives.

Parents and legal guardians have the right and responsibility to restrict access to Library resources for their children, but not for others in the community. The Library Display Policy is not inhibited by the possibility that particular works may inadvertently be seen by or come into the possession of children or young adults.

The library has a responsibility to protect the rights of all patrons; displays which may be considered frank or offensive to some are permitted if they adhere to the Library policy and contribute to the furtherance of its mission and vision.

### **Addenda**

- Library Bill of Rights: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>
- ALA Freedom to Read Statement: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement>
- ALA Freedom to View Statement: <http://www.ala.org/vrt/professionalresources/vrtresources/freedomtoview>

*Policy approved by the Fitchburg Public Library Board on June 21, 2023*