

Public Library Position – Adopted May 2015

*The League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area believes that public libraries are of central importance to our community. Therefore, it supports full service library systems that:*

A. Are responsive to the needs of the community, relying on significant staff and community involvement in strategic planning, capital projects, collection selection, technological resources and space requirements.

B. Maintain an ongoing commitment to attracting and retaining quality staff.

C. Communicate and cooperate with schools, community institutions,. Make available Interlibrary loan services.

D. Incorporate new developments and technologies to provide the best possible service to patrons.

E. Disseminate information by.:

1. collecting/circulating materials in a variety of formats including audio, visual, and electronic;

2 . presenting programs and materials which will stimulate the interest of non-library users;

3. offering programs and services to answer the specific needs of groups such as people with disabilities, seniors, preschoolers, and students;

4. allowing freedom from censorship.

F. Maintain hours and space in a safe environment to sufficiently meet the needs of the communities they serve.

G. Select library boards of trustees in a manner that allows for community input and involvement, in an open and transparent process that makes trustees accountable to their constituents.

H. Maintain and make available, online and in print, any governance records that are of interest to the public. These records should include notices of board meetings; meeting agendas; meeting minutes; current and past budgets; operating policies; overviews of major project plans; and names, terms and qualifications of current trustees.

I. Operate on a sound fiscal plan. The primary support for existing public libraries comes from the local level with additional county, state and federal support. User fees may be assessed for non-residents.. To assist communities in establishing libraries, aid should be made available for initial investment from county, state, and/or federal levels.