

## **Resolution for Mt. Lebanon Public Library to be Declared a Book Sanctuary**

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Mt. Lebanon Public Library intends to publicly declare the Library a Book Sanctuary. Through this resolution, the Library will actively promote its responsibility and capability to provide information to all patrons and to carry out its mission in providing a forum to exchange ideas through conversations and programs about intellectual freedom and related topics. The Library will continue to educate patrons on their First Amendment rights and other rights of United States citizens.

As a Book Sanctuary, the Mt. Lebanon Public Library will pledge to collect and protect endangered books that meet the standards of the Library's Collection Development Policy, to host book talks and events about banned and challenged books, and to educate its patrons on the history of book banning and burning both in the United States and worldwide.

The Library's staff will continue to enact all policies approved by the Library Board of Trustees and select materials for the Library based on the established Collection Development Policy. The Library will continue to advocate against banning books and other materials.

The Library will not deny a patron the right to express concern about materials in the collection, but the Library Director and Library Board of Trustees will not condone removal of any materials from the collection that meet the standards of the approved policy. The Library will also continue its dedication and commitment to ensuring a patron's right to privacy in accessing library materials and the right to make choices for themselves and their children as stated in the Library's Confidentiality of Library Records Policy.

The Library will publicize this resolution declaring the Library a Book Sanctuary through this and other municipal public meetings, through *Mt. Lebanon Magazine*, on social media, and through other media as required, with the assistance of the municipal Public Information Office. The Library will make a special public announcement during National Library Week, April 6-12, 2025. The Library Director and Library Board of Trustees will register the Library on <https://www.booksanctuary.org/> and sign the [Urban Libraries Council Declaration of Democracy](#).

The Library will display the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Library will provide FAQs on the Library's website and in the Library building to further educate patrons and residents about the Book Sanctuary movement, Intellectual Freedom, and Patron Privacy practices.

The Library Board of Trustees will be steadfast in support of Library staff members in carrying out this resolution and will provide them with the information, resources, training and tools needed to succeed in establishing the first publicly recognized Book Sanctuary in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Robert Brian Taylor - President, Library Board of Trustees

Robyn E. Vittek- Library Director