



whatcom county
library system

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 2.03

SCOPE: Trustees of the Whatcom County Library System

Trustees of Whatcom County Library System may not use their position to obtain financial or other gain for their private benefit, or for the benefit of their immediate family, or for the benefit of outside organizations with which they are associated.

Trustees may not accept gifts, gratuities, free trips, personal property or any other item of value from any outside person or organization as an inducement to do business or promote services.

During Library Board meetings, Trustees must disclose any personal conflict of interest involving any issue before the Library Board, and abstain from discussion or voting on that issue. If any Trustee perceives a possible conflict of interest for any other Trustee, the possible conflict of interest should be pointed out and the Library Board should then decide whether the issue really represents a conflict of interest before the discussion on the issue proceeds.

RELATED POLICIES: Board of Trustees Bylaws 2.01; Trustee Code of Ethics 2.02.

STATUTORY REFERENCE: RCW 27.12.190 Library trustees – Appointment, election, removal, compensation; RCW 27.12.210 Library trustees – Organization – Bylaws – Powers and duties; RCW 42.17A.555 Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns; RCW 42.23 Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers; RCW 42.30 Open Public Meetings Act; RCW 42.56 Public Records Act; Washington Constitution (Article VII, Section 1): Taxes are to be used for public purposes only; Washington Constitution (Article VIII, Section 7): Credit not to be loaned; Washington Constitution (Article XI, Section 14): Private use of public funds prohibited.

ADOPTED by the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees August 10, 1993.

REVISED: February 18, 2014.