

Become a Mount Vernon Public Library Trustee



MOUNT VERNON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WHERE OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018, residents of the Mount Vernon City School District will have the opportunity to elect three (3) trustees for the Mount Vernon Public Library. As a library district that serves the same service area as the school district, the Mount Vernon Public Library must go to the public for funding and election of trustees. The library board consists of five (5) trustees.

There are three (3) open seats. We are looking for committed individuals who are residents of, and a registered voter in, the City of Mount Vernon. This is an unpaid position and will have a term of five (5) years. Trustees will be able to seek re-election when their initial terms expire.

Candidate's petition packets are available for pick-up at the reference desk of the library from today March 26, 2018. 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday **until** April 18, 2018.

If you are interested in running for the office of Mount Vernon Public Library Trustee, you are required to obtain at least twenty-five (25) signatures on a petition that **must be returned to the reference desk** by Wednesday, April 18, 2018, **no later than** 5:00 p.m. We recommend that you get extra signatures as all signers need to be registered to vote in Mount Vernon.

Being a library trustee is very rewarding. Trustee responsibilities are few in number but broad in scope. They are:

- Create and develop the mission of the library;
- Select, hire, and regularly evaluate a qualified library director;
- Secure adequate funding for the library's service programs;
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the use of public and private funds;
- Adopt policies and rules regarding library governance and use;
- Regularly plan and evaluate the library's service programs;
- Maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs;
- Promote the library in the local community and in society in general;
- Conduct the business of the library in an open and ethical manner in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and with respect for the institution, staff, and public.

Checklist for being an effective library trustee:

- Be active and informed about library matters in general and those affecting your library. Ask questions of the director and study the issues.
- Attend all board meetings and be fully prepared to participate knowledgeably.
- Question issues until you understand. Don't be reluctant to vote no on a proposal you don't understand or are uncomfortable about.
- Be a team player and treat your fellow board members with respect.
- Support board decisions even if you disagree. A democracy works by the rule of the majority. Seek reconsideration in the future if circumstances change.
- Understand the roles of all involved- the board, director, staff, Friends, and patrons. Respect all opinions whether you agree or not.
- Conflicts of interest by any board member are the concern of all members of the board. A trustee or family member may not receive or appear to receive any gain, tangible or intangible, in dealing with the library.
- Advocate for the library in every manner possible.
- Support competitive salaries in order to attract and retain qualified staff. Appropriate compensation is a direct measure of the commitment and respect a community has for the institution and its staff.
- Understand and respect the role of the director as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the library corporation and support the director's administrative decisions.
- Lastly, it's about the library, not about you. Always remember that your primary job is to provide the highest quality library service possible for your community, not the cheapest.