

Thomaston Public Library Material Display Policy

Purpose

The Thomaston Public Library's *Material Display Policy* provides a basis for the display of library materials by library staff and informs the public about the principles and criteria upon which these decisions are made. The Thomaston Public Library ("the Library") recognizes the importance of displays as resources for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas and to promote free expression and free access to ideas by residents. Displays are provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all residents, represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests, and educational needs of residents.

All library materials are evaluated and made accessible in accordance with the protections against discrimination set forth in **in section 46a-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes**

Principles and Criteria

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

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

Library-initiated displays and exhibits should not exclude topics, books, media, and other resources solely because they may be considered controversial. The Library will strive to include a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints in library-initiated displays, as well as offer displays that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and information needs. The final responsibility for the display of library materials is held by the Library Director, but day-to-day responsibility is shared by librarians who are professionally trained to curate and develop displays.

The Library may partner with other Thomaston- or locally-based community agencies, organizations, educational institutions, or individuals to develop and present co-sponsored displays and exhibits. Acceptance of a display or exhibit topic by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by the Thomaston Public Library of the content of the display or exhibit, or of the views expressed in the materials on display.

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

The Library recognizes that some materials may be controversial or offensive to an individual but maintains that individuals can apply their values only to themselves. The selection of library materials is predicated on the user's right to access information as well as to freedom from

censorship. Selections will not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the merits of the material itself. Selection of materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of or be seen by minors. The Thomaston Public Library supports intellectual freedom and endorses the **American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement**, the **Freedom to View Statement** and all relevant interpretations.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Displays

The Library limits consideration of requests to reconsider material, displays, or programs to individual residents of Thomaston, CT. Reconsideration requests are not confidential patron records under section 11-25 of the general statutes.

Please see our *Material Review and Reconsideration Policy* found on the website or at the library for further information on this process.

Approved by the Town of Thomaston Library Board of Trustees, October 7, 2025.