



CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
 16089 N Bullard Ave
 Surprise, AZ 85374
 Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
 Surprise Regional Library

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Staff Reports
- E. Library Commission Agenda:

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the April 9, 2026, Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Library |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof. | Library |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the historical context of library policies, the principles of intellectual freedom, and the accessibility of library materials. | Library |

- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
- G. Current Events and Reports
- H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 @ 2:45 PM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission**

Council Meeting Date: May 14, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the April 9, 2026, Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the April 9, 2026, Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

Not applicable.

Objective Analysis:

Not applicable.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 040926 LAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
16755 W Vereda Solana Dr.
Surprise, Arizona 85387**

Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Asante Library

Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Desiree VanLoon, Vice Chair Tomasina DiCapo, Commission members, Annie Ansell, Kady McCarthy and MaryAnne Riodique

Absent: Commission Members Deborah Gentry and Mark McCall

Staff: Ashley Ware – City Librarian, Heather Donaldson – Senior Management Analyst and Kelsey Lamphier – Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- There is a new room reservation stat added to the performance dashboard. We are 44% up in room reservations since last year.
- We have VOX books! They are awesome audio included books. Our first round was picture books but we'll have teen and adult books and playaways coming soon.
- We have almost hired two interns for our collection project. I can officially say Alyssa Aey will start at the end of April and we are working with the second intern.
- We are going to hit a million visitors in April! We are planning a little bit of fun for our patrons. That will be announced soon.
- Summer Reading is coming! We will start registration on May 1st. The theme this year is Unearth a Story which is all about dinosaurs and community stories.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner McCarthy 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion on the Asante Library's performance and future direction and service enhancements.

Bambi Shelby, Asante Library Branch Manager, provided the Commission with a presentation about the Asante Library which is a key component of the Surprise Public Library System designed to serve a growing population in the northern portion of the City. She addressed the following items:

- Asante Library Team
 - 6 Full Time / 2 Part Time
 - 5 Teen Volunteers / 8 Adult Volunteers
- Community Engagement
 - Patron Experience
 - Storytimes
 - Unique Programs
 - Programs
 - School Partnerships
 - Community Relations
 - City Department Partnerships
- Building Updates
 - New Carpet
 - Monthly Displays
 - Displays
 - Interactive Displays

3. Presentation and discussion on Surprise Public Library databases.

Nicole Hadenfeldt, Technical Services Librarian, led a discussion with the Commission regarding the Surprise Public Library databases which are intended to support education, workforce development, lifelong learning, and general information needs for the community. She addressed the following topics:

- Online Resources & Databases
 - Ancestry
 - Data Axle (formerly ReferenceUSA)
 - Freegal Music

- Rocket Languages
- Novelist Plus & Novelist K-8 Plus
- Wowbrary
- Comics Plus
- Creative Bug
- Reading Arizona – Libby App
- Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center
- Home Improvement Reference Center
- Britannica Library & Escolar
- Gale Databases
- Libby (Southwest Valley Library Consortium)
- Hoopla
- Free Resources
 - Drive Testing
 - Medline Plus (Eng & Spa)
 - Khan Academy

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

None

G. Current Events and Reports

None

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm – Vice Chair DiCapo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ansell 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Desiree Van Loon, Chair
ATTEST:	<hr/> Heather Donaldson, Sr. Management Analyst

CERTIFICATION:

I, Ashley Ware, City Librarian for the City of Surprise Library Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Library Advisory Commission meeting held on April 9, 2026.

	<hr/> Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: May 14, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations: None

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

Staff members from the Surprise Public Library System attended the 2026 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The PLA Conference is a biennial national event that brings together public library professionals from across the country to engage in professional development, share best practices, and explore emerging trends in library services.

This conference marked the first opportunity for the Surprise Public Library System to send staff to attend, representing an important milestone in the organization’s ongoing investment in staff development and organizational growth. Attendance provided staff with access to a wide range of educational sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on innovation, community engagement, leadership, and evolving service models within public libraries.

Participation in the PLA Conference supports the library system’s commitment to continuous improvement by allowing staff to bring back new ideas, strategies, and insights that can enhance services and better meet the needs of the Surprise community.

Objective Analysis:

This presentation will provide an overview of the conference experience, key takeaways, and potential applications to local library services and initiatives.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PLA Presentation 051426
-

Public Library Association Conference 2026

May 14, 2026



The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this are several stylized, semi-transparent representations of book spines. Each spine is composed of several parallel, slightly curved lines that create a sense of depth and texture. The spines are arranged in a diagonal pattern across the page, with some appearing more prominent than others due to their position and opacity.

ASH

Sessions



- Becoming One Library: How to Build Better Internal Communications
- Engage, Empower, Evolve: Using Staff Input to Strengthen Culture
- Highway to Hell: The Good Intentions Journey
- Redesigning Rules to Reflect Library Values

The background features a stylized graphic of books on a shelf. The books are represented by vertical rectangular shapes with horizontal lines, suggesting pages. They are arranged on a dark blue shelf that recedes into the distance. The entire scene is rendered in shades of blue, with the books and shelf appearing in a lighter blue against a darker blue background.

JAMIE

- **Making Space for Teens:** easy transformation, passive programming, layout
- **Fostering Connections: Building Babies Brains Across a Community:**
connecting parents to resources
- **Intentional Early Literacy Outreach to Hispanohablantes:**
engaging Spanish-speaking families in early literacy services

LISA – coming in June



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CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: May 14, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations: None

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the historical context of library policies, the principles of intellectual freedom, and the accessibility of library materials.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

The Library Advisory Commission has requested additional information regarding intellectual freedom and the collection development practices of the Surprise Public Library System. This request reflects a broader interest in understanding how library policies are developed, the principles that guide the selection and management of materials, and how access is provided to a diverse community.

Public libraries operate within a long-established professional framework that emphasizes intellectual freedom, equitable access, and the representation of a wide range of viewpoints. These principles are supported by nationally recognized guidelines, including those from the American Library Association, which inform local policy development while allowing flexibility to meet community needs.

The Surprise Public Library System’s collection development policies are designed to ensure that materials are selected based on objective criteria such as relevance, demand, accuracy, and community interest. At the same time, these policies uphold the foundational principle that libraries provide access to information without restriction or bias, enabling individuals to make their own informed choices.

As the library system continues to grow and serve an increasingly diverse population, it is important to provide clear context on how these policies have evolved over time, how they are applied in practice, and how they support both intellectual freedom and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Objective Analysis:

This presentation will provide an overview of the historical context of library policies, key principles of intellectual freedom, and how the Surprise Public Library System ensures accessible, balanced, and responsive collections for the community.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. LAC MAY 051426
-

Library Advisory Commission

May 14, 2026

HISTORY

Challenging Access to Information

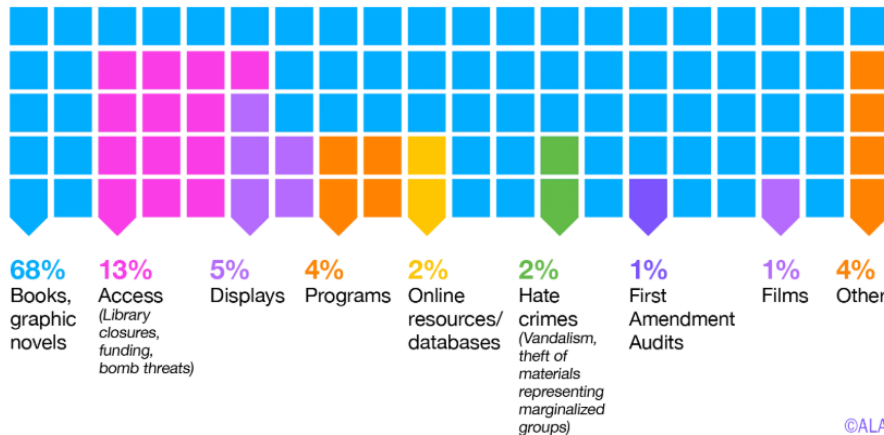
- There has been recorded censorship for over 2,000 years¹
- The works most challenged over the centuries are the Bible and William Shakespeare¹
- The Queen had Shakespeare's play, Richard II, banned in 1601 and then later censored to remove acts²
- First recorded attempt in the United States was in 1637
 - Thomas Morton's New English Canaan²
- Right to Read day is April 20, 2026
- Banned Books week started in 1982
 - October 4-October 10, 2026



Recent Data



- 4,235 unique titles challenged in 2025 (2,452 titles in 2024)⁴
- January 2025 – March 2026, over 100 pro-censorship bills were introduced in state legislatures³
- 9 attempts for 61 materials challenged in Arizona in 2025⁴
- 1 attempt for 1 material challenged in Arizona 2015⁴
- Florida had the highest in the country with 71 attempts for 3,711 materials in 2025⁴
- California had the highest in the country with 17 attempts for 17 materials in 2015⁴



51%
Public libraries



37%
School libraries



8%
School curricula



3%
Higher education

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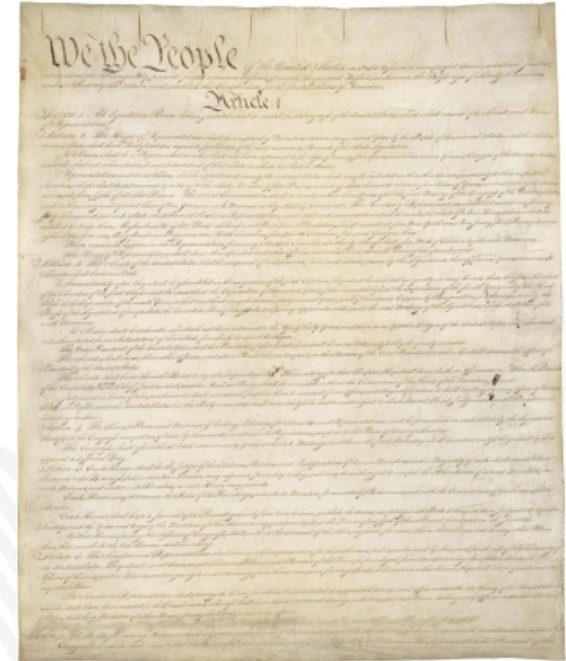
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LAWS & REGULATIONS

Constitutional Rights



- 1st Amendment – Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- 9th Amendment – The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.



Supreme Court Cases⁵

- Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District
 - 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d. 731 (1969)
- Miller v. California
 - 413 U.S. 15, 93 S.Ct. 2607, 37 L.Ed.2d. 419 (1973)
- Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico
 - 457 U.S. 853, 102 S.Ct. 2799, 73 L.Ed.2d 435 (1982)



SURPRISE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy & Procedure

- Collection Development Policy
- Internet & Computer Use Policy
- Library Display Policy

- Requests for Re-evaluation of Library Materials
 - Library Bill of Rights⁶
 - Freedom to Read Statement⁷
 - Freedom to View Statement⁸



Vegans to Carnivores



"We trust the people of this nation to make their own decisions about what they read and believe."
Freedom to Read Statement – June 25, 1953



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Cited Works



1. "Book Banning in the United States and Beyond." Harvard Library Guides, 29 September 2025, <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/c.php?g=1269000>.
2. "Mauscripts Don't Burn: a Timeline of Literary Censorship, Destruction, and Liberation." PEN AMERICA, The Freedom to Write, 13 July 2023, <https://pen.org/censorship-history-book-bans/>.
3. "Adverse Legislation in the States." American Library Association, Advocacy & Issues, Accessed 14 April 2026, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/adverse-legislation-states>.
4. "Censorship by the Numbers." American Library Association, Banned Books, Accessed 14 April 2026, <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/censorship-numbers>.
5. "The Federal Courts of the United States." United States Courts, Accessed 14 April 2026, <https://www.uscourts.gov/>.
6. "Library Bill of Rights." American Library Association, Accessed 9 August 2023, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>.
7. "Freedom to Read Statement." American Library Association, Accessed 9 August 2023, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>.
8. "Freedom to View Statement." American Library Association, Accessed 9 August 2023, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomviewstatement>.