

Adopted May 21, 1973;  
Amended June 18, 1973, March 21, 1977,  
February 15, 1982, September 15, 1997,  
June 23, 2014 (Effective July 1, 2014)  
Amended September 21, 2020  
Amended May 16, 2022  
Amended January 19, 2023

CONSTITUTION  
FOR THE  
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SYSTEM  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

---

ARTICLE I  
NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1. Name. The name of the system shall be the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, (hereinafter referred to as the Library System). The Library System is a tax exempt organization under the laws of the State of Georgia and an exempt organization under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. Location. The headquarters for the libraries in Augusta-Richmond County shall be the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library located at 823 Telfair Street, Augusta, Georgia.

ARTICLE II  
MISSION

The mission of the Library System is connecting the community to knowledge by providing a full program of library services to all citizens of Augusta-Richmond County.

ARTICLE III  
GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Section 1. Library System Board. The governing body of the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library shall be a board of trustees (hereinafter referred to as the Board) as prescribed by O.C.G.A. § 20-5-41.

Section 2. Membership and Appointment. The Board shall be composed of ten (10) members, one (1) appointed by each Augusta Commissioner with the possibility of two (2) additional members appointed by the Richmond County Legislative Delegation as prescribed in Augusta-Richmond County Code.

Section 3. Term of Office. Members shall be appointed for a four (4) year term beginning on April 1 of the year in which the appointing Commissioner assumes office and until their successors are appointed.

Section 4. Removal. A Board member shall be removed for cause: (1) as determined by the appointing Augusta Commissioner or the Augusta Commission; or (2) for missing three (3) consecutive, regular scheduled Library Board Meetings (in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-5-42(d) ). However, a Board member's absence may be excused by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members. Members who are removed shall be notified in writing.

Section 5. Vacancies. If a member of the Board resigns or is removed for cause, a new member will be appointed to fill the unexpired term. Should the Richmond County Legislative Delegation choose to appoint two (2) members as provided in the Consolidation Act, such members shall serve for a term of four (4) years.

Section 6. Former Augusta Richmond County Public Library System employees are not eligible to serve on any of the Augusta Richmond County Public Library System Boards.

Section 6a. Compensation. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation; however, they may be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of library business. Dues or fees for membership in local, state, regional, or national library associations may be paid from library operating funds as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 20-5-44.

Section 7. Officers and their elections.

- a. Officers of the Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. No member can hold more than one office at a time. The Library Director (or appointed alternate) may serve as Secretary. The Augusta-Richmond County Commission representative (appointee) and President of the Friends of the Augusta Library will serve as an ex officio capacity.
- b. Vacancies in office shall be filled by vote at the next Board meeting after the vacancy occurs.
- c. The President will appoint a Nominating Committee at the January meeting. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the March meeting.

- d. The officers shall be elected at the March meeting to serve for one (1) year, or until their successors are elected, and their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting in which they are elected. The term of office of the president shall be limited to two (2) successive terms of one (1) year each.

Section 8. Committees. Standing committee members may be appointed by the president and shall consist of at least three (3) members. The Board, by consensus, may create and dissolve a standing committee at any time upon a vote of majority by the Board members.

#### ARTICLE IV CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The Library System, through the Board, is authorized to make and enter into such contracts or agreements as are deemed necessary and desirable. (O.C.G.A. § 20-5-49)

#### ARTICLE V INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION

The Library system, through its Board, may enter into cooperative endeavors with other library systems, provided the resulting cooperative endeavor is conducive to mutual growth and development of each library system. Such cooperative endeavors must be within the limits of funds available to the Library System. Such cooperative endeavors must not be in violation of state and federal laws, regulations, or other agreements, contracts, or such Board policies.

#### ARTICLE VI NEW MEMBER LIBRARY

Section 1. Admission. Admission to the System is open to any counties which are contiguous to the service area (Augusta-Richmond County), provided that the authorized representatives of such county shall consult and work along with the Board and the Library Director.

Section 2. General criteria. In the event that the Board determines that the addition of a member library to the system is desirable, that library may join the Library System by payment of the current shared services fee and execution of a participation agreement executed by and between the Library Board and the County Commissioner. Such executed participation agreement shall be in accordance with guidelines from Georgia Public Library Service of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS

Any Board member may request an amendment to this Constitution. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board with two-thirds (2/3) majority approval, provided that the proposed amendment is made in writing to the members at least 10 days prior to the meeting, and provided that a quorum is present. All amendments to the Constitution will be filed with the Georgia Public Library Service immediately upon adoption.

ARTICLE VIII  
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Except as specifically provided herein, in the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the Georgia statute provisions governing the operation of public libraries, the Georgia statute shall govern.

Except as specifically provided herein, in the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws, this Constitution shall govern.

ARTICLE IX  
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary authority shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.