

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board

June 17, 2026

**Ramsey County Library – Mounds View
2576 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View, MN 55112**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Action Items**
 - a. Approval of the June Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2026 May Meeting Minutes
 - c. 2027 Library Closure Calendar
- III. Discussion Items**
 - a. Updated Library Advisory Board Template
 - b. 2026 Legislative Session Recap
 - c. Library Advisory Board Roundtable
 - d. Library Director's May Report
- IV. Adjourn**

Library Advisory Board

Marrisa Kirby-Stofferahn, Chair, Kami Millier, Vice Chair
Sandy Doubek, Megan Jacoby, Alex Kovarik,

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting

May 20, 2026

Ramsey County Library – White Bear Lake

2150 22nd Street, White Bear Lake

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Sandy Doubek, Kami Miller.

NOT PRESENT: Alex Kovarik, Megan Jacoby.

STAFF PRESENT: Blia Lee, Office Manager; Kelsey Lied, Planning Manager; Ivory Love, Planning & Evaluation Manager; Pang Yang, Director; Ray Lockman, Deputy Director; Ann Wahlstrom, North St. Paul Branch Manager and Children Facilitator.

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the May Agenda.

Doubek moved to approve agenda, Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of 2026 April Meeting Minutes

Doubek moved to approve minutes. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Bylaws

Director Yang shared the update changes on the Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Bylaws per the previous board meeting discussion. Deputy Director Ray Lockman read over the changes in article 4. Additions and changes will reflect:

Article 4 Conduct of Business

The Library Advisory Board Shall:

- Expect respectful language, tone of voice and behavior.
 - Shall be beholden to and abide by Ramsey County's Visitor Conduct Policy
- Article 7 Attendance

... within a period of 12 months, upon recommendation of the Chair of the Library Advisory Board, the Library Director will recommend to the Chair of Commissioners for removal from the Library Advisory Board.

Miller moved to approved updated Bylaws, Doubek seconded, which passed unanimously.

DICUSSION ITEMS

Ramsey County Library Summer Learning Program

Ann Wahlstrom, North St. Paul Branch Manager and Children's Facilitator presented on Ramsey County Library's Summer Learning Program. Ann shared summer reading programs themes that Ramsey County Library has had in the past years, along with historical program data from 2014 – 2025. The data shows participation numbers compared to numbers of completion of the programs. Surrounding library systems were recording only the participation number, which was double or more than the completion number. Historically, Ramsey County Library recorded only the number of individuals who completed the program until 2023. Ann presented both numbers side by side for the past three years to see where Ramsey County Library stands. To encourage higher participation and completion Ramsey County Library has and continues to offer incentives such as: a package of 4 tickets to MN State Fair, passes to Battle Creek Water Park, and Cup & Cone token for a free cone.

Walstrom also shared the upcoming important dates of this year's programs along with the different types of programs. Summer Learning Program activities include, summer reading passport, reading records to track books or hours, and Beanstack (virtual tracker).

Statistical trends – 10 year

Director Yang, presented briefly on this subject in the previous meeting in March as a part of state reporting. The Library Advisory Board requested additional information to reflect the past 10 years of Library service data from 2016 - 2025. Data presented personnel FTE over 10 years has decreased while Library Tax Levy has increased, indicating that operations expenses have increased.

The data also shows that from 2016 physical visits were high and drastically dropped during 2020, with a gradual increase though peaking at about half of prior visits.. This data shows the same pattern for circulation, computer usage, reference questions, numbers of programs facilitated, and attendance of programs facilitated.

Where the data showed a much higher increase after Covid was public meeting room reservations. Comparing the data from 2016 to 2025 it has doubled since, identifying high interest for community and meeting spaces.

Yang also presented MELSA benchmarks for 2024, comparing data of the surrounding 8 library systems along with Ramsey County metrics and MELSA average. Ramsey County Library ranked second overall in operating revenue per capita at \$59.33, exceeding MELSA average. Program attendance per capital was also above MELSA average, placing Ramsey County fourth with 3.35 attendees per capita. Additionally, the library system ranked fourth in both collection expenses per capita and circulation per capita with circulation performance remaining above the MELSA average.

Ramsey County Library ranked fourth in visits per square footage at 4.56 and fifth in visits per FTE with 7,927 visits per FTE. Similarly, circulation per square footage ranked fifth overall and was below the MELSA average.

Integrated Library System (ILS) Migration

Kelsey Lied, Digital Service Manager, shared information on the upcoming Integrated Library System Migration. It has been 25 years since Ramsey County Library has been with Horizon and now moving to Polaris. Polaris is an innovative product, now owned by Clarivate. Polaris has shown it to be doing well as it is the US leader in public libraries at 18%. The cost of moving forward with Polaris is also more affordable and cost efficient.

The transition phase starts towards the end of June to early July. During this time patrons will encounter temporary disconnect with Interlibrary Loan, and checkouts will be extended temporarily from three to six weeks with limited service. Library users can expect services to resume back to normal mid to late July.

2026 Library Advisory Board Calendar

Director Yang confirmed that the updated Library Advisory Board calendar as reflected from changes voted upon at the March Library Advisory Board meeting.

Library Advisory Board Roundtable

Sandy Doubek, Library Advisory Board Member, shared her experience from attending most recent Friend's Board Meeting. The Ramsey County Library Friend's Board are planning to be adding new members. Their budget is on track and earned 14K from the last book sales. The Friends are currently working with Ramsey County Library to put together maker kits. These take-home kits include a book and a maker kit. The Friends are currently working with outside firms on strategic initiatives for outreach.

Library Director's May Report

Director Yang shares how appreciative the team is for Ray and Ann, both have been working on reorganizing staff work structures and shift efficiencies after an almost 5 FTE reduction.

Since the one-day closure at Ramsey County Library – Shoreview, there has also been an increase in work volume and double the number of visits since last year. Calibrating for this increased business, Ray and Ann both have come together to ensure that the library remains open to provide public service. A huge thanks to Ray and Ann.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

DRAFT

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting date: June 17, 2026

Action Requested: Approval

Presented by: Pang Yang, Library Director

Subject:

2027 Library Closure Calendar

Background:

Each year, Library staff prepares a closure calendar for the upcoming year for advice and approval. The calendar includes all dates designated as paid holidays by Ramsey County, and other dates when the library is closed.

Since 1993, the Library's calendar have included Staff In Service Days. These days allow time for staff training as well as facilities-related projects such as painting or shifting collections.

Board Action Requested:

Approval of the 2027 Closure Calendar

2027 CLOSURE CALENDAR	
Holiday	Status
New Year's Day	Closed Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Closed Monday, January 18
Presidents' Day	Closed Monday, February 15
Staff Inservice Day	<i>Closed Thursday, March 25*</i>
Memorial Day	Closed Monday, May 31
Juneteenth	Closed Saturday, June 19 <i>Friday, June 18th Administration & Technical Services Closed**</i>
Independence Day	Closed Sunday, July 4 <i>Monday, July 5th Administration & Technical Services Closed**</i>
Labor Day	Closed Monday, September 6
Staff Inservice Day	<i>Closed Monday, October 4*</i>
Veterans' Day	Closed Thursday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Closed Thursday, November 25 <i>Open Friday, November 26 Administration & Technical Services Closed**</i>
Christmas	Closed Friday, December 24* Closed Saturday, December 25
New Year's Eve	<i>Open Friday, December 31</i>
New Year's Day 2028	Closed Saturday, January 1, 2028

* Not a paid holiday under Ramsey County Personnel Rules.

** Non-public service staff follow Court House schedule.

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting date: June 17, 2026

Action Requested: Information and Discussion

Presented by: Blia Lee, Administrative Assistance Principle

Subject:

Updated Library Advisory Board Template

Background:

In 2024, the Federal Register published the Department of Justice's final rules for updating regulations for Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure web content and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities.

In adherence, Ramsey County Library is updating the Library Advisory Board template to streamline workflows and improve ADA accessibility. Converting documents from Microsoft Word into ADA-compliant formats is significantly easier when the layout is clean, consistent, and free of complex elements. To support this, we have removed the text boxes and shifted to a more straightforward, generic layout. This approach not only speeds up the conversion process but also ensures the final document is more accessible for individuals who require ADA accommodations. The updated template is designed to be easier to navigate, easier to read, and more reliable for accessibility tools.

In April 2026, the Federal Register published final rules extending compliance date for State and Local government entities with populations exceeding 50,000 or more to April 26, 2027.

Board Action Requested:

For information and discussion.

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting date: June 17, 2026

Action Requested: Information and Discussion

Presented by: Pang Yang, Library Director

Subject:

2026 Legislative Session Recap

Background:

Minnesota's legislative session ended May 18th, wrapping up an unsuccessful season for Libraries. High priority legislation put forth by libraries have been to adjust restrictive e-book and digital audiobook licensing contracts and to focus on equitable terms and fair pricing for public and school library e-books. Current terms in contracts limits libraries to license materials instead of owning, requires libraries to repurchase materials, and subject libraries to high costs of materials, often four to five times the cost a consumer would pay for the same item.

Public libraries have electronic materials available for circulation such as e-books and e-audiobooks for patrons to check out on their own devices or to view on public workstations.

Costs of e-materials are significantly more expensive than consumer or privately owned e-counterparts, or physical items. Commonly, items are between 4-5X the cost of print materials.

Acquiring e-books or e-audiobooks for public library use requires contracting and licensing with publishers, not buying the item. By licensing, libraries are forced to repurchase materials based on licensing terms. There are two common types of licensing library materials are by *expiration* or *circulation*. Expiration means the access and license for the item ends at the time of expiration. For example, if an item is licensed for a two-year expiration, access to the material goes away after that contracted two-year date. Circulation means the access and license for the item ends at the time of a certain number of check outs. For example, if an item is licensed for 26 check-outs, access to the material goes away after that 26th check-out. Through this method, libraries are forced to repurchase materials that are popular, have high hold lists or wait times. Comparatively, a physical item may remain in circulation until it falls apart or is weeded from the collection for a fraction of the cost of an e-book or e-audiobook.

Ramsey County Library's e-book adoption by patrons have been increasing annually in circulation at an average of 12% every year over the past decade. In 2016, with 362,000 items circulated, increasing to over 1,144,000 in 2025. Commitment to e-content has also increased in Ramsey County Library's collection budget in response to the high use and popularity of the product.

	Expenditures	'Owned'	Circulation
2021	\$ 346,970.62	51,843	605,998
2022	\$ 325,107.64	51,542	714,830
2023	\$ 312,118.76	52,832	857,549
2024	\$ 376,607.60	55,183	1,013,861
2025	\$ 579,888.07	56,853	1,144,171

We see high adoption due to our partnerships with schools and getting learners connected to library cards, and those with vision challenges having access to a wider selection of materials and interest in the ability to adjust font sizes. There is also high e-audiobooks circulation due to high cost of acquiring these items for private use and extinction of physical audiobooks.

Minnesota bills [SF 3685](#) authored by Senator Kunesh and [HF 3698](#), authored by Representative Gottfried, aimed to enhance operational capability of libraries in Minnesota and introduce language stating libraries cannot enter into agreements that impose limitations on their ability to lend materials. The Senate bill passed, the House bill did not pass. Since the bill did not pass in the House, it will not become law. Libraries will pursue this effort again in the next legislative session.

Library associations across the nation, particularly Connecticut, are celebrating Rhode Island's successful legislative session around library e-materials. With the session ending on June 11th, Rhode Island was able to pass House Bill H7606Aaa and Senate Bill S2525Aaa which places limits on contracts between publishers and public libraries for e-books or audiobooks, including what public libraries would pay, and the types of licenses libraries are able to purchase. The passing of this bill triggers Connecticut's e-book bill around fair pricing. Washington D.C. also successfully passed their own bill, B26-0490. Illinois's bill HB5236 also passed their house and is undergoing a review in advance of a fall session during their Senate recess.

Board Action Requested:

For information and discussion

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting date: June 17, 2026, Action

Requested: Information and Discussion

Presented by: Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Library Advisory Board Chair

Subject:

Library Advisory Board Roundtable

Background:

Library Advisory Board members are encouraged to participate, volunteer and engage with Ramsey County Library, literacy, and learning activities. Board members are invited to share their experiences.

Board Action Requested:

For information and discussion.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**June 2026**

June Staff Updates: **Retired:** Gloria Bozevich, RCL Roseville

Important Dates: All Libraries will be closed on Friday, June 19th, in observation of Juneteenth.

All Libraries will be closed on Saturday, July 4th, in observation of Independence Day.

No Library Advisory Board meeting in the month of July.

Program Highlight

Join us for a joyful, all-ages celebration featuring a variety of LGBTQIA2S+ Pride activities throughout the day, including a scavenger hunt, Pride-themed crafts for all ages, drag storytime, and other fun and engaging activities on *Saturday, June 13th from 10:30 - 4 p.m.* at Ramsey County Library – Roseville. This event supports Ramsey County's vision of a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive. It also aligns with the county's goal of strengthening individual, family, and community health, safety, and well-being by fostering connection, understanding, and a sense of belonging among residents. This program is sponsored with funds from the Ramsey County Library Friends.

Ramsey County Library hosts as election sites for early in person voting. Voters, regardless of the city they reside in, may vote in person *Friday July 24 – Saturday Aug 8* and *Monday Aug 10* at Ramsey County Library – Roseville and Ramsey County Library – Shoreview. For more information on voting in person before election day, visit: <https://www.ramseycountymn.gov/residents/elections-voting/voters/vote-before-election-day/vote-person>

Library Software Transition

This summer, Ramsey County Library will be switching to new behind-the-scenes software that will help the library run smoothly and have public service impacts. The integrated library system (ILS) transition will include a migration of thousands of records including patron information, library catalog data and web content. Through the leadership of Kelsey Lied and the Digital Services team, staff have been undergoing intense training for the past few months in preparation. Upcoming, the public will experience limited services until the transition is complete.

- June 15 – extended checkout, interlibrary loan is unavailable
- July 5 – limited services: placing holds will be unavailable, new library cards cannot be issued, staff unable to access accounts, mobile app unavailable
 - Digital resources, Libby, public wifi, public computer access, printing, faxing, scanning, programs, will still be available
- July 15 – Many services become available: placing holds, requesting holds, issuing library

cards, accessing accounts

Library users will be using a temporary catalog

- July 29 – all services resume

For more and updated information, please visit <https://www.rclreads.org/news/library-software-transition/>

Green Card Voices

In partnership with the City of Shoreview, Ramsey County Library – Shoreview exhibited Green Card Voices immigration stories, a 20-banner display that was available to tour for a month. The tour of the exhibition banners culminated in an event, *Becoming Neighbors*, at the Shoreview Community Center on June 3, 2026, with over 70 people in attendance gathering to exchange stories, build understanding and strengthen a sense of belonging in community. The exhibit and event was funded by the Shoreview Community Foundation grant and meets the Library's strategic priority of *extending our welcome* and *growing our partnerships and community presence*.

Maplewood Mini Construction

In 2025 Ramsey County Library received the State of Minnesota's Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project grant, resulting in \$500,000 of grant funding to support community revitalization, connectedness and equity by promotion education, work and health in areas that will benefit the most from support to address challenges through supports for education, work, and health focused on advancing family economic stability, connections and educational opportunity for our state's children and youth. This renovation will renew and remove a defunct kitchen at Ramsey County Library – Maplewood and restore additional square footage to the facility for public use and increase our capacity to *building resources to create positive change*.

Read and Create with the Library

Earlier this year, our communities experienced metro surge. Families sheltered in place and made decisions not to go to school. We also recognize that this happened during a critical time for our young learners, particularly for second graders. Second grade is pivotal time for learning and literacy, as at this point, they have learned *how* to read, and transition to *falling in love* with reading. An important piece of falling in love with reading, is having books to read.

In coordination with the Roseville Area School District and the Mounds View School District, we were able to bring a book, a take-home kit, and information about summer learning at the library to every single second grader in both school districts. Fully funded by Ramsey County Library Friends and Roseville Area Foundation, we produced and delivered 824 completed Read and Create with the Library packages to the Mounds View School District and 484 completed packages to the Roseville Area School District. This great partnership came together through the work of Ann Wahlstrom, Anna Smithberger, Choua Yang, Beth Porter, Paige Fuller, Bliia Lee, Andrea Strobush, Nicole Brinkman, and countless hours of volunteer work from Ramsey County Library Friends volunteer and supports our strategic priorities of *growing our partnerships and community presence*.

Pang Yang