

49

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3A
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: David Coughlin

ADDRESS: Council

PHONE NUMBER: Council EMAIL: d.coughlin@stppar.org

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use **one** form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3A
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers **must** list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS: Slidell, La

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

#

3A

(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

FULL NAME:

LISA Rusteneger

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.

Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-014
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.

Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

yes

FULL NAME:

James Prestice

ADDRESS:

Corington LA

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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1

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3B
(Example: # 1A)

waived

Speakers **must** list an item that is printed on the agenda.

Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

*I think the vote should be postponed.
But really anyone but Chuck would be
my choice -*

FULL NAME:

Becky Bohm

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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(B)

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

Congrats to
(Example: #1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

(B)
Mr Bohart
Mr Thornton

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Andrew Benson MD

ADDRESS:

[REDACTED] PR, CA 70452

PHONE NUMBER:

[REDACTED]

EMAIL:

[REDACTED]

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3B
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers **must** list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS: Slidell, La

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3B
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3B
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Lisa Rustemege

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

B
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

ENDORSE INDIVIDUALS FOR
PRES. V.P. & SEC.

FULL NAME:

VILL KESLER

ADDRESS:

[REDACTED] COV. 70433

PHONE NUMBER:

[REDACTED]

MAIL:

[REDACTED]

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

Election
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

President

FULL NAME:

James P. Ponce

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

This information is a Public Record.

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

JB
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

David Gough

ADDRESS:

Parish Council

PHONE NUMBER:

Council

EMAIL:

doug@stt.gov.org

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

Election
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

V.P. Baham

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

OFFICERS

(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

Secretary Treasurer

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

This information is a Public Record.

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

☒ I **do not** wish to speak but would like my written comment below added to the public record of this meeting. (Your name will **not** be called to approach the Board to speak.)

Agenda Item #: 2 B

Support the appointment of Branton
to chair/president

FULL NAME: Pamela Mender

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Mandeville, LA 70448

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

This information is a Public Record.

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☒ I **do not** wish to speak but would like my written comment below added to the public record of this meeting. (Your name will **not** be called to approach the Board to speak.)

Agenda Item #: 3 B

Support the appointment of
Branton to Chair (President)

FULL NAME:

Laura Huber

ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

Abita Springs

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

[REDACTED]

EMAIL:

[REDACTED]

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3C
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonne & Ireland

ADDRESS: Sl. sell, La

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

Financial
(Example: # 1A)

C

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

Expenditures

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

#

3E

(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.

Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

FULL NAME:

Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS:

Slidell, La

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3E
(Example: # 1A)

waived

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: *[initials]*

FULL NAME: Lisa Rusteneyer

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-15
(Example: # 1A)

3E

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: Mandeville LA

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Devin Magee

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS: Slide//, La

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Lisa Rustemeier

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-015 3.F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

Code of conduct

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-16
(Example: # 1A)

3F

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: Mandeville LA

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

F
(Example: # 1A)

Waived

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: JEFF CORBIN

ADDRESS: SLIDELL, LA

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers **must** list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

David Cagle

ADDRESS:

Council

PHONE NUMBER:

Council

EMAIL:

dcagle@sttammany.org

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2

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item**:

3F
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

Berley Bohm

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

This information is a Public Record.

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

☒ I **do not wish to speak** but would like my written comment below added to the public record of this meeting. (Your name will **not** be called to approach the Board to speak.)

Agenda Item #: F

Oppose the passing of the
resolution amending the Code
of Conduct

FULL NAME: Laura Huber

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Abita Springs

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
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✓ I do not wish to speak but would like my written comment below added to the public record of this meeting. (Your name will not be called to approach the Board to speak.)

Agenda Item #: F

~~Oppose~~ Oppose resolution # 25-014
amending rules and regulations

FULL NAME: Pamela Mender

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Mandeville, LA 70448

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

6
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Devin McGee

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

36

(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS: Slidell, La

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

waived

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

36
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

Jean Wiggins
Abita

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

36
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

NISA RUGENEGR

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-017
(Example: # 1A)

3.6

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

Yes

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

Covington LA

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

This information is a Public Record.

36

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.

Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-017
(Example: # 1A)

3-6.

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.

Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

~~From~~ Yes

FULL NAME:

James Prentice

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-17
(Example: # 1A)

3G

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: Mandeville Lt

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
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Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

G
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Joan Simon

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] COO 70933

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

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3

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

36
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

waived

COMMENTS: appeared since some SOC are
opposing what library staff elected to
do-

FULL NAME: Bede Bohm

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: _____

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1

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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☒ I **do not** wish to speak but would like my written comment below added to the public record of this meeting. (Your name will **not** be called to approach the Board to speak.)
Agenda Item #: G

Please let's stop all the nonsense about the library. There never was a problem in the first place. There are far more things in the parish to be focusing on.
Rachel Rhodes

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

This information is a Public Record.

6

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item**:

11
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Devin McGee

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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11

waived

PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

37
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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3.4

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-018
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

yes

FULL NAME:

Tamara Prentice

ADDRESS:

Covington,

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

25-18
(Example: # 1A)

34

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

FULL NAME:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Kevin Marino

ADDRESS:

Mandeville LA

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

34
(Example: # 1A)

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Sonnet Ireland

ADDRESS: Slidell, La

PHONE NUMBER: ✓ EMAIL: _____

This information is a Public Record.

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PUBLIC COMMENT – JULY 28, 2025
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Please return to designated library staff member.
Please use one form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item:

3H
(Example: # 1A)

waived

Speakers must list an item that is printed on the agenda.
Your name will be called to approach the Board to speak.

COMMENTS:

When will this end???

FULL NAME:

Becky Bohm

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

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Fw: [External] Observations - to be entered into the official minutes of the LBOC

From: Sissy Wiggin <sissywiggin@stpl.us>

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 3:51 PM

To: lboc <lboc@stpl.us>

Cc: Kelly LaRocca <kelly@stpl.us>; Cheryl Tanner <ctanner@stpgov.org>

Subject: [External] Observations - to be entered into the official minutes of the LBOC

Dear LBOC members,

I have spoken in front of the LBOC and the parish council many times in the last three years. I have spoken in front of the Abita Springs Town Council asking our council and our residents to contact their parish council person and to write to the LBOC stating their support for our librarians, our libraries, and our right to choose what we read and what our children read. I have been involved in this issue from the beginning.

I spend more time in the library than most people - and I would venture to say more than any person on the LBOC. I have been teaching students to read in the libraries since June 2015. I am often in the libraries six days a week. Previous to teaching in the library, my grown children used the STPL system in the early 2000's. I have been an avid supporter of libraries my entire life. I remember when I was ten or eleven I wanted to read books in the teen section, and the librarian, Ms. Marie, walked me over to it and allowed me to check out books.

I would like for you to know that the only ugliness I have ever seen in the library was when an occasional person would be at the circulation counter raising their voice and demanding to see all of the "bad" books. I have witnessed this myself, and I am certain all STP librarians can attest to this ignorant and rude behavior. The front desk staff is not paid enough to deal with this ugliness.

I am extremely weary and disgusted with those people who speak in front of the STP Council and the LBOC screaming about librarians "grooming" children, about horrible books in the library, about how awful our director is. In the last parish council meeting someone spoke about walking into the Slidell library, randomly picking a book from the shelf, and finding it disgusting and inappropriate. I want to know what the book was and where it was found. Otherwise, it's a ridiculous story that cannot be verified, and it was a waste of our time to listen to this man rant.

As far as I am concerned, the library staff has gone overboard in appeasing the people who think they should control what people can and cannot read. Books have been hidden behind the circulation desk and moved from the teen to adult section too quickly. And why? People still come to meetings screaming about the books that should be banned.

This is what I see in the hundreds of hours I have spent in the library over the last few years: young people searching for books that speak to them and what they need (and that may be a book about LGBTQ issues), families enjoying story time, many people using the computer, librarians helping people with faxes, librarians going above and beyond to help people with their research or a simple problem with their phone or a password, kids being boisterous and giggling and having a ball running all over for the scavenger hunt and so excited to pick from the prize box, librarians with smiles on their faces as they deal with the occasional recalcitrant person or very loud adult, a huge number of families with children attending the popular special events in the large room in Covington, people using the copy machine, people lining up early before the library even opens trying to get one of the study rooms, and sometimes people just sitting and looking at a magazine to get out of the heat or cold.

What I see is joy, happiness, a culture of sharing knowledge, a place that is critically important to our parish. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you for what you do. I am sorry for the people on both sides of this issue who are sometimes rude. You do not deserve it.

Thank you.
Jean Wiggin
Retired public school teacher
Abita Springs