

PUBLIC COMMENT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Please print all information. Return completed card to a designated library staff member.

- Use **one** form for each agenda item you wish to comment on.
- Speakers **must** list an agenda item **number**.
- If you wish to speak, you must submit this card **before** the agenda item is called.

✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

#1
Example: # 3A

*Meeting
Notes*

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Lisa Rustemeyer

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

1
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: Mandeville LA 70448

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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**PUBLIC COMMENT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
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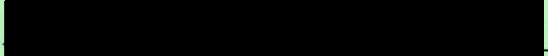
✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item Number**:

C
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Devin Mcgeed

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: 

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

#

C

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Kristen Luchinger

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

#

C

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS:

SPEAKING ON EAST ST TAMMANY BUSINESS

ALLIANCE

FULL NAME:

JOSEPH MONTELEONE

ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

34200 LA 7045 #

PHONE NUMBER

[REDACTED]

EMAIL:

[REDACTED]

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3C
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Rustenberg

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item Number**:

3C
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: Mandeville 70448

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

~~3B~~ 3C
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

waived

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

Ms. J. WIGGIN *St. Tammany Parish*

PUBLIC COMMENT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item Number**:

26-002 → C

Example: # **3A**

COMMENTS: Support Meetings in Slidell

FULL NAME: Councilman Trey Brundfield

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Slidell

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item Number**:

3C

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

Against Revolution

FULL NAME: _____

Berley Bohm

ADDRESS: _____

Mandeville LA 70421

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

D
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Devlin Mcghee

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

#

D

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Bruce Luchberger

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

#

3D

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

Lisa Rudneyer

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3D
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: 70448

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3D
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

Ms J. Wiggins

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3D
Example: # **3A**

COMMENTS: Against Revolution

FULL NAME: Beddy Bohm

ADDRESS: Mandeville

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 Number:

E

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME:

Devin Moyal

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____



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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

E

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kristen Richberger

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

TULANE LAW CLINIC
Civil Rights & Federal Practice Clinic
Criminal Justice Clinic
Domestic Violence Clinic
Environmental Law Clinic
First Amendment Clinic
Immigrant Rights Clinic
Juvenile Law Clinic

February 23, 2026

St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Via electronic mail only to: lboc@stpl.us

Re: Restricted access to graphic novels in the St. Tammany Parish public

Dear Library Board of Control members:

We write on behalf of concerned library patrons regarding the ongoing restriction of graphic novels, which are constitutionally-protected materials, behind the circulation desks in St. Tammany Parish libraries. We ask that the Board reconsider its proposed Resolution 26-004 and revise its policy regarding graphic novels.

As you know, Resolution 26-004 purports to “codify” a previous Library Board of Control resolution and resolves that graphic novels containing depictions of “sexual conduct” (as defined in La. R.S. 14:105 and La. 25:225(B)) shall be “retained behind the circulation desk.” This restricts access for readers of all ages, not only the minors for whom §225 was passed and for whom the tiered-access system was implemented.

The Board’s policy of holding graphic novels behind the circulation desk violates the Constitution because it removes protected works from the shelves. It provides a presumption of censorship of books, when the presumption should be that creative works are protected from government censorship except in very rare circumstances. Federal courts have held that stigmatizing controversial books by hiding them behind counters or removing them from circulation is a First Amendment violation.¹ Content-based restrictions are presumed invalid must meet a very high burden of government interest to be justified.² The Supreme Court has also required that book

¹ *Board of Education v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853, 872 (1982) (holding that “school boards may not remove books from school library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books and seek by their removal to ‘prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.’”(quoting *West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943)).

² “Any system of prior restraints of expression comes to this Court bearing a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity.” *Bantam Books, Inc. v. Sullivan*, 372 US 58 (1963) (citing *Near v. Minnesota*, 283 U. S. 697; *Lovell v. City of Griffin*, 303 U. S. 444, 303 U. S. 451; *Schneider v. New Jersey*, 308 U. S. 147, 308 U. S. 164; *Cantwell*

challenge schemes comport with Due Process,³ and that it violates Due Process to pull a book from shelves while it is under review.⁴

Relocating (or “retaining”) materials behind the circulation desk restricts the public’s access to materials, regardless of content. It also stigmatizes the materials and those library patrons who wish to access them. “Sexual content” is protected under the First Amendment unless it meets the standards of obscenity.⁵ This policy is plainly unconstitutional,⁶ because the First Amendment “does not recognize any state power to restrict the dissemination of books which are not obscene.”⁷

Unfortunately, we learned of an adult patron who just this past weekend—on Saturday, February 21—arrived at a parish branch library and attempted to browse graphic novels; he was told they were “restricted” and had to request that a librarian bring out a cart from an inaccessible back room. He was permitted to browse the works on the cart but the librarian informed him that he could not check any of them out of the library. **This is quintessential censorship and indisputably unconstitutional.** Your policy of obstruction and restriction makes it impossible for adult readers to actually read materials in the library. That is the antithesis of the library’s purpose.

We ask you to return graphic novels to their rightful place on the library shelves immediately. We appreciate that the Board faces political pressure, and lend our voices in support of those asking you to adhere to the Constitution and protect our libraries as places of unconstrained inquiry.

Thank you in advance for your attention to our concerns. We are available to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bruce Hamilton, Director
Annie Cleveland, Legal Fellow
Tulane First Amendment Law Clinic

v. Connecticut, 310 U. S. 296, 310 U. S. 306; *Niemotko v. Maryland*, 340 U. S. 268, 340 U. S. 273; *Kunz v. New York*, 340 U. S. 290, 340 U. S. 293; *Staub v. City of Baxley*, 355 U. S. 313, 355 U. S. 321.)

³ *Freedman v. Maryland*, 380 U.S. 51 (1965).

⁴ *Quantity of Books v. Kansas*, 374 US 205 (1964) (holding procedure that seized books before obscenity hearing was unconstitutional prior restraint for lack of safeguards against the suppression of non-obscene books); *see also Freedman v. Maryland*, 380 U.S. 51 (1965) (holding unconstitutional censorship by administrative procedures that fail to provide prompt judicial review).

⁵ *Kingsley International Pictures v. Board of Regents*, 360 US 684 (1959); *Grove Press v. Gerstein*, 378 U.S. 577 (1964) (citing *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, 378 US 187 (1964)).

⁶ *Smith v. California*, 361 U.S. 147, 152 (1959); “[Censorship] is so abhorrent to our traditions that a purpose to grant it should not be easily inferred.” *Hannegan v. Esquire, Inc.*, 327 U.S. 146, 151 (1946).

⁷ *Roth v. United States*, 354 U.S. 476 (1957).

PUBLIC COMMENT - ~~DECEMBER 15, 2025~~
LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

FEB. 23, 2026

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

E #26-004
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: ALL BOOKS SHOULD BE SHELVED
WHERE IT IS APPROPRIATE. PLACING ANY BOOKS
BEHIND THE CIRCULATION IS CENSORSHIP.
GRAPHIC NOVELS SHOULD BE SHELVED WHERE
PATRONS CAN ACCESS THEM.

FULL NAME: JAMIE SEGURA

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] COVINGTON

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

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✓ I request to speak on the following **Agenda Item Number**:

3E

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Kevin Marino

ADDRESS: 70448

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3E

Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: Lisa Rusteney

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____



Till Summer Do Us Part

MEGH
QUILL

MY TROPE
The Scientist

KRISTEN

MARY JANE
DAVIDSON

THE
REVEN

Daniela
Mestyonek Young
AND AMY REED

The Cutting of Amy

THE SANDMAN

ENDLESS NIGHTS

NEIL GAIMAN

ANIMAL CASTLE

Deleop Dorlsen

DARK RAIN

MATT JOHNSON

The Boulevard of Broken Dreams

The Color of

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3E
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS: _____

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

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✓ I request to speak on the following Agenda Item Number:

3E
Example: # 3A

COMMENTS:

Against Revolution

FULL NAME:

Berley Bohm

ADDRESS:

Mandeville LA 70471

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

This information is a Public Record.

Emailed to the LBOC, Tanya DiMaggio, Brent Geiger, Trevor Collings, Cheryl Tanner:

Once again, you are trying to create a solution when there is no problem or focusing on the wrong problem entirely. Young people have access to every kind of content at home on their phones, laptops, computers, and iPads. So, to create policy to "protect" those kids at the library only penalizes all users.

I do not want my freedom to see every book on the shelves of the library curtailed because of irresponsible parents. It is a tragedy of our times that children can find inappropriate content any time online. It is quaint and irresponsible to focus on kids walking around the library looking for "naughty" books. That happened in the old days - before the internet and so many young kids having their own phones.

When I allowed my kids to ride their bikes to the library when they were over 10, I trusted my kids and I trusted that the librarians were doing their jobs - which had nothing to do with watching my child unless it was to tell them to lower their voices or stop running.

As I have stated before, I am in the libraries much more than most people because I work with students of all ages. I am in all sections of the libraries six days a week, and I do see librarians keeping an eye out for bad behavior (mainly running) and unaccompanied kids. I see kids in the adult sections all the time - they are chasing each other and playing hide and seek.

If the LBOC has not already done it, each of you should observe actual behavior by spending two or three hours every week in different libraries writing down what you see. I am confident that my observations, based on approximately 15 - 20 hours a week in the libraries for the last eleven years, are based on fact, not hearsay, not fear, not paranoia, not social media hysteria, not conjecture.

If nothing else, I agree with a few of the other speakers. Put a bright red dummy book on the shelf stating that the book is being hidden behind the circulation desk. I would like to have access to a printed list of the hidden books at every circulation desk, updated as books are added or removed from the list. If the circulation desks have already done this, thank you.

Your time and public money is precious. Do not waste it trying to create a solution when there is no problem or by focusing on the wrong problem entirely.

Jeze Wiggins

Subject: Unattended children

To: Travis Thompson <travis.thompson@stpl.us>, <lbec@stpl.us>, Tanya DiMaggio <tanya@stpl.us>, trevor.collings@stpl.us <trevor.collings@stpl.us>

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Last night you talked about 12-year-old kids riding their bikes to the library, and you seemed to think that it was the responsibility of librarians and policies to protect them.

First, as I am sure you know, STPL policy allows 12-year-olds to be in the library alone. (See policy below.)

Second, if a parent trusts their child to ride a bike to the library, that means they trust their child to act appropriately. They are not expecting the librarians to be watching their kids.

Third, in the thousands of hours I have been in the libraries over the last eleven years, I have NEVER seen a child roaming around the adult section randomly pulling books from shelves to find the "bad" books. They are doing that at home on their phones, iPads, and computers.

Thank you.

**(Ms.) Jean Wiggin
Abita Springs**