



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 16, 2026

DATE: March 13, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, County Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action to appoint a County Commissioner as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees with no term. The liaison role is intended to allow the Commissioner appointed to serve as a bridge between the appointed Library Board of Trustees and the elected Board of County Commissioners. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners approve the appointment of a County Commissioner as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees with no term. The purpose of this report is to facilitate the Board's consideration of establishing a liaison role, which is intended to strengthen communication and collaboration between the appointed Library Board of Trustees and the elected Board of County Commissioners. This action is anticipated to enhance transparency, provide a direct channel for information exchange, and support effective governance of the library system. The liaison would serve as a bridge to ensure alignment of library policy and operations with county priorities and community needs.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability.

PREVIOUS ACTION

In recent years, the Board of County Commissioners has not taken formal action to appoint a County Commissioner as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees. While the Board has regularly appointed and reappointed members to the Library Board of Trustees in accordance with NRS 379.020 and has periodically discussed the need for improved communication and oversight between the Board of County Commissioners and the Library Board. The most recent documented appointment of a commissioner as liaison to the Library Board occurred in January 2015, when Commissioner Jung was appointed for a one-year term; subsequent annual boards and commissions appointments did not include a liaison to the Library Board of Trustees.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The Washoe County Library Board of Trustees is established under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 379.020, which authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to appoint five competent residents of the county to serve as trustees. Trustees are responsible for the governance and oversight of the library system, including policy development, appointment and evaluation of the library director, and monitoring of finances and system effectiveness. The Board of County Commissioners retains statutory authority to appoint trustees and to determine the structure of board representation, but there is no legal requirement for trustee appointments to be distributed by commission district; rather, appointments are based on residency, qualifications, and the needs of the library system as determined by the Commission. Over the past several years, the County has received a high volume of applications for library board vacancies, reflecting significant public interest in library governance and the evolving needs of the community. The appointment process has included public notice, review of applicant qualifications, and consideration of factors such as professional experience, community involvement, and the ability to represent the diverse interests of Washoe County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the appointment of a County Commissioner as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees. The liaison role does not create a new paid position, require additional compensation, or necessitate the allocation of new budgetary resources. The appointment is intended to be fulfilled as part of the regular duties of a sitting County Commissioner, consistent with the Board's authority to assign commissioners to serve as liaisons or members on various boards and commissions in accordance with established county practice. Funding for commissioner participation in liaison roles, including travel or incidental expenses, is already incorporated within the existing Board of County Commissioners' operating budget and does not require separate appropriation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board appoint a County Commissioner as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees with no term.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to appoint _____ as liaison to the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees with no term."