



Thank you for contacting the Lafayette Parish Library (LPL) Board of Control. Due to the volume of emails we are currently receiving, we have generated the following response covering current topics of interest in hopes that it addresses your email. If your comments/questions are not addressed by this response, please know that we are making every attempt to do so. We appreciate your patience.

Through this response, it is the goal of the LPL Board of Control to correct the misinformation that has been circulated regarding these topics.

The Bayouland Consortium

The Lafayette Parish Library System is facing an ongoing budget shortage of over \$1 million per year due to the loss of a millage renewal in 2018. As financial overseers of the Lafayette Parish Library system, the Board of Control is reviewing the budget and policies to determine their equity for the owners of the library system, the Lafayette Parish property taxpayers.

The LPL Board of Control has considered the possibility of charging non-Lafayette Parish residents a small fee to enjoy the same, full borrowing privileges as enjoyed by Lafayette's property tax-paying residents. However, the Board is not considering leaving the Bayouland Consortium. In fact, upon learning about Bayouland, newer board members have publically commended the wisdom in the formation of the consortium to share the costly expense of database resources. We recognize that these resources may not be attainable for individual libraries outside of the Consortium. Therefore, the LPL Board is proud to be part of an entity that allows all Consortium members access to these databases at their respective libraries.

LEH Grant: Who Gets to Vote?

The LPL encourages life-long learning and robust discussion of topics, while aiming to offer stimulating programming for all. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) offered a program for which the LPL applied. According to the LEH, this program would be covering both "historic and contemporary voter suppression topics." No Board Member ever believed or suggested that the historic portion of this program was controversial. However, Board members did recognize that "contemporary voter suppression topics" included highly political topics, such as voter ID laws, voter rights of felons, and changing the Electoral College system and

requested that reasonable measures be followed in order to keep the LPL apolitical. When these measures were proposed, no Board Member expressed any concern for these measures, and the Director agreed to the measures as feasible. If you are interested in participating in LEH's program, please see the following link for details. <https://10to8.com/book/pnsqxe-free/>

For more information about this grant and the LPL Board of Control's decision, please read the press release at the following link. <http://lafayettepubliclibrary.org/?p=51677>

LPL Board of Control Authority Regarding Programming

The LPL Board of Control takes the concerns voiced by citizens of Lafayette Parish residents seriously. In response to certain statements made at the February 3, 2021 special meeting, we requested a legal opinion with regard to the issue of programming and the Board's authority.

The Lafayette Parish Library Board of Control is the ultimate authority for establishing Lafayette Parish Library programming, but the Board of Control may delegate, and has delegated, portions of that authority to the Library Director. The scope of that delegation is solely within the authority of the Board of Control, and it can be established, modified, or withdrawn, in whole or part, as the Board of Control may see fit.

The above legal opinion rendered by our legal counsel resulted from his examination of Louisiana statutes, which have authorized both parishes and municipalities to create library systems. Having received this very clear legal conclusion, it is the intention of the Board to continue to extend to all future interim and permanent Library Directors the ability to direct programming, subject to the Board's oversight.

Again, thank you for your concern about the Lafayette Parish Library System.

Sincerely,

LPL Board of Control