



Resolution 2023-1:

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE SALINE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY; TO OPPOSE ILLEGAL CENSORSHIP IN ALL ITS FORMS; TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY; AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT TO UTILIZE ITS RESOURCES TO BETTER SUPPORT THE RESIDENTS OF SALINE COUNTY.

Whereas, the Saline County Public Library provides a broad range of critical and valuable services, and supports all members of the community; and

Whereas, the Saline County Public Library is visited by individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs; and

Whereas, Saline County residents across the political, economic, gender, sexual orientation, and racial strata have given testimony on the positive effects the library has had on their lives; and

Whereas, opponents of the Saline County Library have expressed their intention to relocate “inappropriate” materials within the library without properly defining the meaning of “inappropriate;” and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of parents (not that of librarians or library staff) to determine what media is and is not appropriate for their children, teens, and young adults to consume; and

Whereas, it was previously and is now already library policy for all minors under the age of 12 to be accompanied by an adult in the library at all times; and

Whereas, we recognize the deliberate replication of a pattern of behavior leading up to the defunding of the Craighead County Public Library occurring here in Saline County; and

Whereas, there have been procedures in place for 20+ years by which concerned parents could challenge certain materials for containing “inappropriate” content; and

Whereas, those procedures were not utilized a single time by any Saline County resident in the past 7 years prior to 2023; and

Whereas, the Saline County Public Library is funded in part by ALL residents of Saline County regardless of religious belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status; and



Whereas, outright removal or relocation of any materials from the Saline County Public Library could constitute a violation of the 1st Amendment, pursuant to *Little v. Llano County* (2023); and

Whereas, the resolution adopted by the Saline County Quorum Court in their April session is unenforceable and did not appease opponents of the library as was suggested by many Justices of the Peace; and

Whereas, the Saline County Quorum Court has stripped the library board of its Constitutional authority, likely costing the library \$200,000 of state funding; and

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of correspondence from the public to members of the Saline County Quorum Court received prior to the passage of the resolution was to oppose it and support the library against efforts to censor materials; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SALINE COUNTY THAT:


SECTION I: We support the library in its endeavors to support and uplift all residents of Saline County regardless of status or demographic, and we urge them to continue operations-as-normal.

SECTION II: We oppose and object to any and all efforts to censor or remove materials from the Saline County Public Library on the sole basis of personal, political, or religious belief as a violation of the liberties afforded to all U.S. citizens under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

SECTION III: We recognize it is the right and responsibility of parents & guardians to monitor and evaluate the appropriateness of content for their children, and we encourage them to utilize the existing procedures to challenge materials that they believe to be inappropriate.

SECTION IV: The Quorum Court should spend its time and resources on improving the lives of Saline County residents instead of endorsing efforts to delegitimize and politicize a public service.


Chair's Signature


Secretary's Signature

9/11/2023
9/12/23