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**Public Statement Policy and Procedure**

**[DRAFT]**

**Policy**

The Oregon Library Association leadership is sometimes called upon to make a public statement opposing or supporting a diverse array of policies, current events, or issues that affect the library community or the communities we serve. These calls regularly come from our association members, members of the press, political entities, the general public, or OLA leaders themselves.

Public statements made by the leadership of the Oregon Library Association are meant to reflect the core values of the library profession, and are intended to be representative of our membership. The Oregon Library Association’s membership embodies a broad political spectrum, and it is not the intention of the OLA leadership to make statements counter to the beliefs or politics of any of its members. Our unifying professional principles of intellectual freedom, lifelong learning and literacy, equitable access, transparency, and stewardship of public resources is explicitly stated in OLA’s Legislative Agenda, and should be representative of all OLA members. OLA leadership works within these themes when making any statement on behalf of our membership.

**Procedures**

When OLA is called upon to make public statements, it will be at the discretion of the elected leaders of the association in concert with the appropriate committee to discern whether a public statement is appropriate, warranted, or requiring of a quick issue.

When a public statement is requested, the preferred course of action is for the leadership of OLA (the President, Vice President, Past President, or voting members of the Executive Board) to seek advice or recommendations from the Library Development and Legislative Committee (LDLC). Once comment from the LDLC is invited and obtained, the leadership will approach the Executive Board for approval of the public statement. The reverse may also be the case, and the LDLC recommends a policy statement be made by the OLA board or its officers, in which case the Executive Board would also approve the message.

In the interest of agility, however, it is understood that this process is not always the most expeditious course of action. In instances that require fast turnaround, the leadership of OLA is empowered to make public statements, speak to the press or the public regarding our policy positions with the caveat that the positions represented fall within the Oregon Library Association’s [Legislative Agenda](http://www.olaweb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=167), which is available on the OLA website.

**History**

Draft presented to the Legislative Committee 1/31/2017