

## HART COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM CONSTITUTION

Effective July 1, 1996 and amended January 8, 2013.

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the system shall be the Hart County Library System.

### ARTICLE II. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Hart County Library shall be located in Hartwell, Georgia.

### ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hart County Library shall be to furnish library service to the people of the county under the regulations governing public libraries as set forth by the State of Georgia.

The Hart County Library shall offer a full program of library service to all citizens of Hart County to meet their informational, education, and recreational needs; acquire and purchase library materials; circulate materials to the public through the member libraries or by other appropriate means of library extension; develop existing libraries and other services as appropriate to the needs of the service area; build a reference collection adequate to provide current and reliable information of a research nature as demanded by the needs of the communities comprising the area served; and promote the use of library resources by means of instruction, library-centered programs, exhibits, and other public relations media.

### ARTICLE IV. CONSTITUENCY

The Hart County Library System shall serve all citizens of Hart County.

### ARTICLE V. LEGAL AUTHORITY

The legal authority for public libraries and boards of trustees is described in Title 20, Chapter 5, Article 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, amended March 26, 1984.

### ARTICLE VI. GOVERNING BODY

**Section 1.** The governing body of the Hart County Library shall consist of a Board of Library Trustees composed of trustees who are appointed to the Hart County Library Board by the governmental agencies financially supporting the library on a regular basis, as specified in State law. The Board of Trustees shall be composed of seven members. The Hart County Board of Commissioners shall appoint four members; the Hartwell City Council shall appoint two members; and the Hart County Board of

Education shall appoint one member. The operation of the Hart County Library System is legally vested in this Board under the provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Article 2, Chapter 5, Title 20.

**Section 2.** The term of office shall be four years, with starting and ending dates corresponding to the library's fiscal year.

**Section 3.** The terms of appointment will be staggered so that either three or four positions will be eligible for appointment every other year. For purposes of the initial appointments under this constitution, unless otherwise provided for by the funding agencies, the initial terms of the members appointed by the County will be four years. The initial terms of the members appointed by the City and School System will be two years. Successive appointments by the City and School System will be for four years terms.

**Section 4.** Board members shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of library business, or if stipulated in the terms of any bequest or gift. Membership dues or fees for individual membership of Board members in state, regional and national library associations may be paid from operating funds.

**Section 5.** Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as appointments are made. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a trustee's term, the new appointee shall complete the unexpired term.

**Section 6.** Subject to the amendment of the constitution by the Library Board, additional representatives shall be added from any governmental agencies which may, in the future, choose to financially support the library on a regular basis.

## ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The officers of the Board of Trustees shall be a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer elected from those serving on the board. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Board.

**Section 2.** Officer nominations may be made by any member of the Library Board. The officers shall be elected by majority vote of the Library Board at the July meeting to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

**Section 3.** The Treasurer, the Director, and any members of the staff authorized to handle library funds shall be bonded for an amount commensurate with the amount

of funds handled, determined by the Board and entered in the minutes. A copy of the bond shall be filed with the Georgia Public Library Service (a unit of the University System of Georgia).

**Section 4.** All Federal, State and local funds used for the operation and improvement of the services and facilities of the Hart County Library System shall be received by the Treasurer and shall be used in accordance with the budget approved by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

An Executive Committee, composed of the officers of the Board, shall be entrusted to govern in the name of the board of Trustees between meetings of the board.

## **ARTICLE IX. OTHER COMMITTEES**

Other committees such as the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, or other special committees may be appointed by the chairman as needed.

## **ARTICLE X. INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION**

The Hart County Library may enter into cooperative endeavors with other library systems for the purpose of sharing personnel, materials, and services by confederation or by merger as seen fit by the governing bodies of the library systems. Such cooperative endeavors must be within the limits of funds available to the Boards of Trustees, conducive to mutual growth and development of library services, and not in violation of state or federal laws, regulations, or other agreements, contracts, or Library Board policies.

## **ARTICLE XI. CONTRACTS**

The Hart County Library System is authorized to make and enter into such contracts or agreements, for all or any part of the County Library System, as are deemed necessary and desirable under the provisions of Article 2, Chapter 5, Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (20-5-49).

## **ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice is made in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting, and provided that a quorum is present. All amendments to the constitution will be filed with Georgia Public Library Service (a unit of the University System of Georgia) immediately upon adoption.