



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

November 17, 2025
Agenda Item No. 6

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Collection Development Policy (NBPL 2)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board of Library Trustees review and approve revisions to Library Policy NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy*, to be compliant with the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825).

DISCUSSION:

Assembly Bill 1825 establishes the California Freedom to Read Act. The bill requires “every public library jurisdiction that directly receives any state funding...shall establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy for its public libraries by January 1, 2026, and shall submit that collection development policy to the State Librarian.” The State Library has been reviewing submitted collection development policies in accordance with an established process and checklist (Attachment A), verifying the statements listed in the checklist are true.

Staff submitted Library Policy NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* (Attachment B), to the State Library for its review at the end of August 2025. In response, the State Library informed staff that NBPL 2 currently meets three of the four checklist items. The State Library found that the fourth checklist item, which states, “The policy contains the following statements,” is missing. Here are the missing statements:

- The collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library’s autonomy and their specific community needs.
- The public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.
- Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole.
- The right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences is acknowledged.

The proposed revisions to NBPL 2 incorporate these four specific statements into the policy as required by AB 1825. Staff shared the red-lined policy (Attachment C) containing the proposed revisions with the City Attorney’s Office and the State Library. Both entities cleared the revisions to proceed and indicated

to staff that these policy changes would meet the requirements of AB 1825. If the proposed revisions are approved, staff will resubmit NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* – final (Attachment D) to the State Library for its closing review to determine that NBPL 2 is compliant with AB 1825.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A: California Freedom to Read Act Process and Checklist

ATTACHMENT B: NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* - original

ATTACHMENT C: NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* - red-lined

ATTACHMENT D: NBPL 2, *Collection Development Policy* - final