

KDLA Trustee Tip September 2017: Oath of Office

Kentucky public library trustees are members of an official governing body, sworn to uphold the constitutions of the Commonwealth and the United States. This duty does not begin, however, until trustees have taken the oath of office.

Who Administers the Oath of Office to Library Trustees?

The official oath of office for library trustees may be administered by:

- Any state or federal judge, Kentucky jurisdiction;
- Any member of the Kentucky General Assembly;
- Any county judge/executive, notary public, or clerk of a court, within his/her district or county. (Kentucky Revised Statutes 62.020(1) and (2)).

What Documents Are Required for the Oath of Office, and Where Are These Documents Found and Held?

In addition to stating the oath of office, public library trustees must sign an oath of office to be preserved as documentation of the trustee's oath. A copy of [the written oath of office may be found on KDLA's website](#); the signed oath of office must be filed with the County Clerk, and a copy should be kept on file at the library (Kentucky Revised Statutes 62.020(1) and (2)).

When Should Library Trustees Take the Oath of Office?

Trustees **MUST BE** sworn in prior to participating in board meetings. Trustees who have not taken the oath of office do not count toward a quorum, and any actions taken by a trustee who has not been sworn in are invalid. Trustees who are returning for consecutive terms must be sworn in for their new terms.

What Is the Official Oath of Office for Kentucky Public Library Trustees?

The [oath of office used for public library trustees can be found in Section 228 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky](#) and is reprinted below.

Official Oath of Office for Kentucky Public Library Trustees

I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky so long as I continue a citizen thereof, and that I will faithfully execute, to the best of my ability, the office of according to law; and I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that since the adoption of the present Constitution, I, being a citizen of this State, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons within this State nor out of it, nor have I sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, nor have I acted as second in carrying a challenge, nor aided or assisted any person thus offending, so help me God.

This Trustee Tip Is Not Legal Advice. If You Feel You Need Legal Advice, Please Consult an Attorney