

Trustee Tip September 2015: Taking the 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 – as soon as they are sworn in, that is. Your service as a public library trustee does not begin until you have taken the oath of office. The timing of the oath of office, the person administering the oath, and the oath itself must be completed according to Kentucky Revised Statutes.

When Should a Trustee Be Sworn In?

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.

Who Can Administer 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 Official Oath of Office, and Where Are They Held?

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

What Is the Official Oath of Office for 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 at the end of this tip.

Official Oath of Office for Kentucky Public Library Trustees

I do solemnly swear 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 ____ Public Library Trustee 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.