

The Ethical Dozen for Friends of the Library

1. Friends of the Library is a group of individuals who value public library services to the community and who volunteer their time, talents, and efforts to promote and support the library's vision, mission, and objectives of the library in whatever way will be helpful.
2. Friends organizes to help support the work of the library, not to engage in the work and responsibilities of the library staff. Friends of the Library cooperates with the staff but does not interfere with it. Members of Friends recognize that they do not perform a decision-making role for the library.
3. Friends supports quality library services in the community through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocating for the library's program.
4. Friends works to ensure that the public has equal access to information, both as a constitutional right and as the best way to sustain a democratic way of life.
5. Friends subscribes to and believes in the *Library Bill of Rights*.
6. Members of the Friends recognize that authority rests with the whole Friends board assembled in public meetings and shall make no personal statements or promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board. Members of the Friends support the actions taken by a majority of the board and clearly differentiate personal opinions from board decisions.
7. Friends does not interfere with the library operations of the library staff.
8. Friends promotes the library program to the public.
9. Friends conducts fundraising which complements the library's mission. Friends supports the library's long-range plans and policies.
10. Friends follows legal, professional, and ethical practices in making decisions. It scrupulously avoids personal conflicts of interest and does not condone them in others. Individuals say nothing in a board meeting that could be construed to violate anyone's civil rights.
11. Friends serves as an advocate for local, state, and national library issues and represents the library program to legislators and funders.
12. Friends is open and welcoming to suggestions, questions, and communications from the library staff and the public.

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In August 2015 the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library edited a draft document—provided by the Friends of Tennessee Libraries—to produce this document. It was adopted by the full board as policy on August 17, 2015.