

CALIFORNIA CODES  
EDUCATION CODE  
SECTION 18910-18927

18900. The common council, board of trustees, or other legislative body of any city in the state may, and upon being requested to do so by one-fourth of the electors of the municipal corporation in the manner provided in this article, shall, by ordinance, establish in and for the municipality a public library if there is none already established therein.

18901. The request may be by a single petition, or by several petitions. The several petitions shall be substantially in the same form. The single petition, or several petitions in the aggregate, shall have, the signatures of the requisite number of electors.

18910. The public library shall be managed by a board of library trustees, consisting of five members, to be appointed by the mayor, president of the board of trustees, or other executive head of the municipality, with the consent of the legislative body of the municipality.

18911. The trustees shall hold office for three years. The members of the first board appointed shall so classify themselves by lot that one of their number shall go out of office at the end of the current fiscal year, two at the end of one year thereafter, and two at the end of two years thereafter.

The legislative body of the municipality may, by ordinance, provide for the compensation of such trustees; provided that the respective compensation for such trustees shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50) per month.

18912. Men and women are equally eligible to appointment as trustees.

18913. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointments are made.

18914. Boards of library trustees shall meet at least once a month at such times and places as they may fix by resolution.

18915. Special meetings may be called at any time by three trustees, by written notice served upon each member at least three hours before the time specified for the proposed meeting.

18916. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

18917. The board shall appoint one of its number president, who shall serve for one year and until his successor is appointed, and in his absence shall select a president pro tem.

18918. The board shall cause a proper record of its proceedings to be kept.

18919. The board of library trustees may make and enforce all rules, regulations, and bylaws necessary for the administration, government, and protection of the libraries under its management, and all property belonging thereto.

18920. The board of library trustees may administer any trust declared or created for the library, and receive by gift, devise, or bequest and hold in trust or otherwise, property situated in this state or elsewhere, and where not otherwise provided, dispose of the property for the benefit of the library.

18921. The board of library trustees may prescribe the duties and powers of the librarian, secretary, and other officers and employees of the library; determine the number of and appoint all officers and employees, and fix their compensation. The officers and employees shall hold their offices or positions at the pleasure of the board.

18922. The board of library trustees may purchase necessary books, journals, publications, and other personal property.

18923. The board of library trustees may purchase real property, and erect or rent and equip, such buildings or rooms, as may be necessary, when in its judgment a suitable building, or portion thereof, has not been provided by the legislative body of the municipality for the library.

18924. The board of library trustees may request the appropriate state officials to furnish the library with copies of any and all reports, laws, and other publications of the state not otherwise disposed of by law.

18925. The board of library trustees may borrow books from, lend books to, and exchange books with other libraries, and may allow nonresidents to borrow books upon such conditions as the board may prescribe.

18926. The board of library trustees may do and perform any and all other acts and things necessary or proper to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

18927. The board of library trustees, or if there is no board of trustees, then the administrative head of the library shall, on or before August 31st, in each year, report to the legislative body of the municipality and to the State Librarian on the condition of the library, for the year ending the 30th day of June preceding. The reports shall, in addition to other matters deemed expedient by the board of trustees or administrative head of the library, contain such statistical and other information as is deemed desirable by the State Librarian. For this purpose the State Librarian may send to the several boards of trustees or administrative heads of the library instructions or question blanks so as to obtain the material for a comparative study of library conditions in the state.

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SECTION 18960-18965

18960. Every library established pursuant to this chapter shall be forever free to the inhabitants and nonresident taxpayers of the municipality, subject always to such rules, regulations, and bylaws as may be made by boards of library trustees. Any person who violates any rule, regulations, or bylaw may be fined or excluded from the privileges of the library.

18961. The board of library trustees and the legislative body of any neighboring municipality or the board of supervisors of the county in which the public library is situated, may contract for lending the books of the library to residents of the county or neighboring municipality, upon a reasonable compensation to be paid by the county or neighboring municipality.

18962. The title to all property acquired for the purposes of the library, when not inconsistent with the terms of its acquisition, or otherwise designated, vests in the municipality in which the library is situated, and in the name of the municipal corporation may be sued for and defended by action at law or otherwise.

18963. Any municipal library which was established and existed on June 11, 1909, under the provisions of an act entitled "An act to establish free public libraries and reading rooms," approved April 26, 1880, is continued under the provisions of this chapter and shall be considered the same as if established under the provisions of this chapter. This chapter has no application to any library established or governed by a city charter, and any city charter is in no manner affected by this chapter.

18964. Any ordinance establishing a library adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be repealed by the body which adopted it upon being requested to do so by 51 percent of the electors of the municipal corporation, as shown by the great register. Upon the repeal of the ordinance the library is disestablished in the municipal corporation.

18965. Whenever the governing bodies of two or more cities or counties consolidate their existing public library services, as a joint exercise of powers under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500), Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code, and the ownership or management of the cities' and counties' library facilities and other library assets are turned over to a newly formed joint agency, any boards of public library trustees existing prior to the consolidation, may be dissolved by ordinance.