

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Section 33-2701 states: it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Idaho, as a part of the provisions for public education, to promote the establishment and development of public library service for all the people of Idaho. By so declaring, the state acknowledges that the ability of its citizens to access information has a critical impact on the state's educational success, economic development, provision for an informed electorate, and overall quality of life. It is the purpose of this chapter to integrate, extend and add to existing library services and resources so that public library service may be available to all residents of the state from infancy through adulthood, beginning in the formative years and continuing for lifelong learning;

WHEREAS, in 1974, Ada County determined that the establishment of the Meridian Free Library District was in keeping with the public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public libraries and placed the issue before the voters;

WHEREAS, in 1974, voters in the Meridian Free Library District boundaries voted to establish the Meridian Free Library District;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Free Library District is governed by a Board of Trustees regularly elected by and accountable to the citizens of the District. Trustees are elected by the voters of the Meridian Free Library District in compliance with the directives provided by the state of Idaho in Title 33, Chapter 27 of the Idaho code in elections administered by Ada County;

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, the Board of Trustees of the Meridian Free Library District has implemented policies that empower parents, caregivers and individuals to be involved with their own children's use of diverse library offerings and protect their fundamental rights and sacred freedoms to make their own choices about what information to access;

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, Meridian Free Library District has provided the citizens of the District the ability to access information and expanded to meet the increased need for library services as Meridian has grown substantially during these years, growing from one branch in 1974 to four (and soon-to-be five) branches today, in keeping with the declared public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public library service;

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, Meridian Free Library District has made a critical impact on economic development in the District, providing resources and support for job seekers, entrepreneurs and small businesses, and establishing its business-focused branch, unBound, in keeping with the declared public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public library service;

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, Meridian Free Library District has provided for an informed electorate in the District through the availability of its professional staff to assist patrons in accessing information on the topics of the patrons' choosing, in keeping with the declared public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public library service;


WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, Meridian Free Library District has made a critical impact on the overall quality of life in the District, as evidenced by the 45,000 currently active library card holders, 250,000 annual visits to library locations, and more than 1.3 million annual print and digital checkouts, in keeping with the declared public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public library service; and

WHEREAS, throughout its forty-nine years of existence, Meridian Free Library District has integrated, extended and added to existing library services and resources to make those services and resources available to all residents of the District from infancy through adulthood, beginning in the formative years and continuing for lifelong learning, through opening new branches with plant levy funds approved by 67.2% of the voters in 2019, adding mobile and home delivery services, and developing community partnerships, in keeping with the declared public policy of the state of Idaho in regard to public library service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the dissolution of the voter-approved Meridian Free Library District does not comport with the declared policy of the state of Idaho to promote the establishment and development of public library service for all the people of Idaho, does not serve the best interests of the citizens of the Meridian Free Library District, and should not be placed on the ballot.

The above Resolution is adopted on this 9th day of March 2023.

  
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Megan Larsen  
Chair - MLD Board of Trustees

  
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Jeff Kohler  
Vice Chair - MLD Board of Trustees