

Over the past few months, our library system has taken steps to comply with changes in the state and local laws:

- The Rutherford County Library System (RCLS) is governed by our Board of Directors, an 11-member board whose representatives are appointed by each of our funding bodies based population (U.S. Census) as directed by the State of Tennessee. The Board is comprised of
  - 4 representatives appointed by Rutherford County
  - 4 representatives appointed by the City of Murfreesboro (one is a council member)
  - 2 representatives appointed by the Town of Smyrna (one is a town council member)
  - 1 representative appointed by the City of Eagleville
  - Board members are volunteers who can serve two consecutive 3-year terms.
- Our system receives funding from all four governmental entities listed above; RCLS is governed by the Board of Directors.
- Here are some statistics on our library system for 2022/23:
  - In **2022/23**, the total budget for the Rutherford County Library System [RCLS] was \$4,074,588
  - RCLS contains 209,049 items and services a population of 313,091 (LaVergne has their own library that is a department of the city)
  - 1,245,566 items were checked out on the Bookmobile and at Eagleville, Linebaugh, HRC, MGL, Smyrna and TEC libraries
  - 449,537 e-audio/e-books/digital magazines were downloaded over the past year
  - RCLS had 633,753 visits to our six locations
  - 73,460 active library cardholders system-wide
  - Librarians answered 43,931 reference questions
  - Patrons used computers 192,362 times over the past year
  - Program attendance was 59,458
- The following books have been recently withdrawn, reclassified, or retained in their current classification after a Request for Reconsideration form was filed by a library patron:
  - *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson (YA 306.766) (also available digitally) Withdrawn
  - *Flamer* by Mike Curato (YA Graphic Novel) Withdrawn
  - *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe (Adult Graphic Novel) (also available digitally) No change
  - *Let's Talk About It* by Erika Moen (YA 306.7) (also available digitally) Withdrawn
  - *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made* edited by Leigh Finke (YA 248.83) (also available digitally) Withdrawn
  - *An ABC of Equality* by Chana Ginelle Ewing (J 305) No change

- *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn and Shonda Rhimes (Adult Fiction) No change
  - *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth (J 613.9071) Moved to Adult nonfiction
- Book titles withdrawn may still be available on digital platforms, as the RCLS has no control over those databases.
- All requests are considered individually, and staff recommendations are presented to the Board of Directors for a final decision.
- In considering each book, the staff and board are obligated to follow state and local laws, which include a Murfreesboro decency ordinance passed in June 2023 and the state code.
  - Decency ordinance: [23-O-22-passed-06152023-FINAL \(murfreesborotn.gov\)](#)
  - T.C.A. 39-17-911 - Sale, Loan or Exhibition of Materials to Minors: [Tennessee Code Title 39. Criminal Offenses § 39-17-911 | FindLaw](#)
- Decisions about individual books are not focused on any particular group; RCLS is here to serve all residents of Rutherford County.
- Patrons can learn more about filing a reconsideration request at [Request for Reconsideration of Library Material | Rutherford County Library System \(rclstn.org\)](#)
- In an effort to further address local and state laws, the board voted in August 2023 to approve a graduated library card system which will be implemented beginning December 18, 2023. By default, children (birth through age 12) and young adults (ages 13-17) will be limited to their own sections. Parents can opt their children out of this restriction by visiting any of our locations and signing a permission form. (Murfreesboro CityTV video at [Rutherford Co Library System Information - YouTube](#))
- Digital materials Libby (OverDrive R.E.A.D.S.) or hoopla can now be accessed through our catalog at [Catalog Home | Rutherford County Library System \(rclstn.org\)](#)