



## Louisiana State Candidate Responses on Library Censorship

The following report was compiled by Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship (LA-CAC) in September of 2023 to help educate voters on the serious issues regarding censorship and book banning in Louisiana. This information is based upon the candidates' responses to LA-CAC's survey. All survey questions are included below.

Note that Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship (LA-CAC) **does not endorse** candidates. This report is provided as an educational tool for voters who are interested in learning more about Louisiana candidate stances on censorship and book banning in Louisiana.

For questions about this report, or if any candidates would like to provide additional information on their position towards the current issues in our public libraries or on censorship in general, please reach out to

[LouisianaAgainstCensorship@gmail.com](mailto:LouisianaAgainstCensorship@gmail.com)



## Survey by Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship

Candidates were invited to respond to the following questions:

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	Yes / No / Maybe	
2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	Yes / No / Maybe	
3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	Yes / No	
4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	Yes / No	
5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?		
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	Yes / No	
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	Yes / No	
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	Yes / No	
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	Yes / No	
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	Yes / No	
6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most	Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	1 2 3 4 5	
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	1 2 3 4 5	
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	1 2 3 4 5	
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	1 2 3 4 5	
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2 3 4 5	
7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	Yes / No	
8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?		
9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?		
10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	Yes / No	



**Xan John, Governor**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
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Banning leftist porn for minors. I am completely anti-censorship - but we must prevent the leftist agenda from children until they reach the age of majority.

2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
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I just answered this question - redundant prompt.

3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>
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You said it: keyword "child" - the age of minority. Children can't buy guns, tobacco or gamble but they can choose their gender?? Hell no! They need monitoring by conservative adults.

4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>No</b>
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If they voted for Trump - Yes. No liberals should be allowed ANY children - I can't make this more clear.

5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>No</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>No</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>No</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>No</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>No</b>

I answered no to all questions because this whole questionnaire must be a leftist run one. Each question is framed to make someone who wants to protect children, like I do, look bad. This is all double speak and trickery and lists none of the things like \*gender\*, \*equity\*, or how there are \*CP\* images in all these new books to ruin the childhood of children and confuse them. InfoWars.com MyPillow.com

6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most	Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	



**Xan John, Governor**

7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>No</b>
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This whole interview is a joke and framed to have the moral high ground - which it does not!

Why would you ask me something like this but never mention why parents and local governments are trying to ban books for children - "children": age 17 and younger. Just come out and ask what you are trying to and be clear. You want to ask if children can look at porn that the left views as "gender confirming" - all a huge social engineering joke funded by George Soros.

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?
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When elected we must ban democrats, their sugar daddies AND the grotesque books that are being used to confuse minors. You know what I hate about this "questionnaire" it poses ad this anti-censorship questionnaire but has only focused on library books, not one mention of social media and search engine mass censorship of conservatives or any unjust shadow banning and/or black balling of Trump - Who won 2020!

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?
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All the CP material and "gender affirming care" books like: Sparkle Boy and Jacobs new dress, etc.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	<b>No</b>
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I'm Republican Xan John, running for Governor, here to give Louisianans a seat at the decision-making table and raise the standard of living in this great State. I will fight for a pro-human future and to lower taxes.

I support: Trump, Tucker Carlson, The Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and Oil & Gas Industry.

I'm against: wokeness, lockdowns, liberalism, censorship, George Soros and the World Economic Forum.

Louisiana has more oil and gas than most nations. We need to explore, drill, produce and workover – NOT depend on OPEC or the UN.

I stood up and told the truth since 2020 back when it was the hardest to be an outspoken patriot. I never wore a mask, took mRNA or believed the media!

Louisiana needs to adopt the state legislation that makes Delaware, Florida, and Texas so attractive to freedom lovers as well as business and gun owners.

Ask yourself, is your candidate Pro government or Pro freedom?

Let's make Louisiana a sophisticated tax-haven.

Let's always keep Louisiana open and free.

Let's Make Louisiana Great Again.

Demand Xan John for Governor!

Louisiana First!



**Xavier D. Ellis, Governor**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
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Censorship is private matter that each individual should grapple with the aid of parents and pastors.

2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
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I believe schools should have books in the library that meet the school aged kids level.

3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>
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Your called to be a parent to model expectations of what a functioning member of society looks like.

4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
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Let's hope so especially for those who have went to college and got trained in library science.

5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>Yes</b>

6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most		Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	1	<b>2</b>	3 4 5
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	<b>1</b>	2	3 4 5
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	1	2	<b>3</b> 4 5
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	<b>1</b>	2	3 4 5
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1	2	3 <b>4</b> 5

7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>Yes</b>
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Government overreach is never good thing.

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?
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My first stop would be the meet with the library commission and see where this falls in their priorities. It is my belief that racism, oppression, and discrimination has no place in a public space such as a library.



**Xavier D. Ellis, Governor**

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?
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Controversial issues such as sex education must be explored at somepoint. Once again that is a case by case basis which should be decided in small private circle and explored public even in the library when the time is right.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	Yes
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I believe it is important to embrace diversity, fairness in resources, lifelong learning, freedom to be creative and using mediums that aid growing up in the 21st century.



**Amanda Jennings, Secretary of State**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
I do not believe in book banning but I do believe in ensuring age appropriate reading material for the youth.	
2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
Age appropriate. Kind of like video game ratings, Mature should not be in the hands of minors.	
3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>No</b>
I was a library child growing up as a ward of the court, I had no parent to monitor me. I used books to escape and many others would not be able to enjoy the library if a parent is required.	
4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>No</b>
There needs to be a rating system like video games.	
5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>No</b>
Each person is individual and unique, you can't ensure every young person would see themselves in a book, if that was the case, there would be no need to write any more books.	
6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most      Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>
7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>Yes</b>
As previously stated, age-appropriate rating needs to be enacted.	
8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?	
By ensuring that our libraries remain funded and functional.	



**Amanda Jennings, Secretary of State**

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?
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I do not believe in censoring or removing a book, I do however believe they should be rated for maturity level and nothing sexual should be exposed to minors.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?
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No
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This should be optional.





**Lyndon B Johnson, State Representative District 4**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
Some books need to be restricted based on age sensitive material but books shouldn't be banned based on some personal beliefs. Freedom of Speech	
2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>Maybe</b>
Those books should be based on curriculum driven material. (For instance short stories, novels, historical and current events)	
3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>
Parents should know what material their children are checking out but impossible to know what they are reading in the library unless they are sitting there with them.	
4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
Based on input from teachers and the public that uses the library.	
5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>Yes</b>
6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most      Least
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d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>
7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>No</b>
Denies freedom of speech	
8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?	
Stress the right of individuals to have the right to read materials that we might not like or believe	



**Lyndon B Johnson, State Representative District 4**

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?
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NO

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	Yes
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**Evan McMichael, State Representative District 6**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
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I oppose censorship of any kind for any reason other than age-appropriateness, and even that should require strong scrutiny.

2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>Maybe</b>
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I oppose censorship, but I do support limited restriction on books for the sole purpose of age-appropriateness in elementary and middle school libraries.

3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>
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Libraries should not be in trouble for providing free information. It is a parent's responsibility, if they do not want children exposed to certain information, to monitor what information the children receive.

4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
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Anyone who has detailed knowledge on the subject should be given more weight in the decision making process.

5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>Yes</b>

6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most	Least
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b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5	
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	
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e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	

7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>Yes</b>
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I oppose any law which uses censorship.

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?
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I would make sure librarians are given the freedom to make those decisions and cultivate that variety.



**Evan McMichael, State Representative District 6**

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?

No

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	<b>Yes</b>
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I believe our libraries are important resources for the communities and thus need all the resources they can have themselves.



**Tammy M. Savoie, PhD, State Representative District 23**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
I trust trained librarians to provide appropriate book selections for the libraries in their charge.	
2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>No</b>
I do not believe in censorship based on ideology.	
3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>
Yes, until the child is old enough to choose their own reading materials.	
4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>Yes</b>
5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>Yes</b>
6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most      Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
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e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>Yes</b>
I do not want state legislators censoring library materials based on their ideology.	
8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?	
I will work to prohibit state legislators from passing laws in which they become the arbiters of what reading materials the public should have access to.	



**Tammy M. Savoie, PhD, State Representative District 23**

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?

No. I will leave that to the librarians.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?

**Yes**

Libraries are vital centers of literacy, access and education. As a nonprofit organization based in the United States, the American Library Association is at the core of supporting libraries and library education internationally. I support the ALA unreservedly!



**Ivan Scioneaux, State Senator District 37**

1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?	<b>Yes</b>	
For me it's not the idea of banning books it's the idea of keeping minors from certain types of exposure that can corrupt them at an early age.		
2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?	<b>Yes</b>	
A minor should not be able to go to a library that all of the people are paying for and getting a book that contains sexually explicit content or a book that promotes hate of the United States.		
3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?	<b>Yes</b>	
Yes, it is the responsibility of the parent to monitor the child at a library but at the same time the library should not contain any material that could be considered inappropriate for a child.		
4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?	<b>No</b>	
Parents are the best trained professionals. I understand that librarians have a responsibility of upkeep and maintenance of the library but the final authority are the people which in essence are the parents.		
5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?		
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>	
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues.	<b>No</b>	
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>No</b>	
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents' children.	<b>Yes</b>	
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's books.	<b>No</b>	
Further information send an email to <a href="mailto:ivanlasenate@gmail.com">ivanlasenate@gmail.com</a>		
6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most	Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	<b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5	
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5	
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	
7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>No</b>	

It's the role of government to make informed decisions for its people and protect their rights and welfare.



**Ivan Scioneaux, State Senator District 37**

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?

If they want a book that contains sexually explicit material or something that's against the Bible they can go out and buy it themselves.

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?

Any book, magazine or pamphlet that contains sexually explicit material or something that tries to undermine the truth of government in the United States.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?

**Yes**

I mean I don't have a divided interest





**Lauren Jewett, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 1**

<p>1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>Any book can have the potential to be challenged by someone. Sometimes when people pose challenges to accessing certain books, they may think there is good intent behind the attack. However, the impact of banning, censoring, or restricting the book/text often causes more harm than good. Many of the books that are being questioned and restricted are books that provide readers with diverse representation and perspective. In the spirit of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop’s idea of books as mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors, we all deserve to have books that allow us to see ourselves, see others who are different from us, and develop understanding and empathy for others. Book bans deny us of those possibilities and choices.</p>	
<p>2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>I am concerned that there have been more concerted efforts focused on banning books in schools/school libraries rather than addressing ways to improve student literacy rates in our state and ensure we are setting kids up for success with critical inquiry and dialogue. Books can be a lifeline for many students in schools. Again, Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop’s models of books as mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors reminds us that books are a way to have representations of ourselves, our experiences, and our cultures as well as learn about people and communities who are different from us. Having an array of different books by authors of different backgrounds helps students get excited about reading. Additionally, as a member of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and someone who has a Master’s degree in English literature, I believe both librarians and English/humanities teachers have qualifications to select books for their classes. I support structures at schools where teachers and librarians explain the criteria and the procedures they used in selecting books and where we give students the right to self-select books they want to read from classroom or school libraries.</p>	
<p>3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Public libraries often have rules and policies about unattended children. These are usually policies that are established by library boards and I believe that the responsibility for the safety and behavior of children at the library is with the parent/guardian or assigned caregiver and not the staff of the library. Libraries offer our children and the community so many enriching opportunities, but we should also respect the work that the staff at our public libraries do and not view them as babysitters.</p>	
<p>4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Part of my reason for running for BESE is that I believe that it is important to have a current educator on our state board of education who has professional experience and expertise about the day to day situations in a school setting and what happens in a classroom. It is important to me for educators to have a role in decisions about teaching and learning and in a similar vein, it is important that librarians who are trained professionals with knowledge about curating collections of books for libraries be trusted in the decisions that they make about our public and school libraries. This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t have community discussions and input about books, but we should also respect the extensive training and protocols that librarians use in selecting and placing books within libraries.</p>	



**Lauren Jewett, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 1**

5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?	
a. Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms.	<b>Yes</b>
b. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people’s access to books does not protect them from life’s complex and challenging issues.	<b>Yes</b>
c. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.	<b>Yes</b>
d. Parents of one family should not be making decisions for other parents’ children.	<b>Yes</b>
e. Young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library’s books.	<b>Yes</b>

6. Please rank the following library services in order of importance for Lafayette Parish.	Most	Least
a. Physical books, Magazines, Archives	<b>1</b>	2 3 4 5
b. Digital Services (Internet Access, Electronic Databases, E-Books, Audiobooks)	<b>1</b>	2 3 4 5
c. Community Services (Resume & Tax Assistance, Fax, Printing, Meeting Spaces, etc)	1	<b>2</b> 3 4 5
d. Programming (Storytimes, Summer Reading, Craft Projects, How-To, Book Clubs)	1	<b>2</b> 3 4 5
e. Other Services: Makerspaces, Musical Instrument Libraries, Seed Libraries, etc	1 2	<b>3</b> 4 5

7. Would you support state legislation prohibiting government entities from enacting book bans or the censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the materials?	<b>Yes</b>
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I would support state legislation that would prohibit government entities from enacting book bans or censoring of library materials because of content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in materials. People living in the state should not be subject to the whims of politicians or government officials when it comes to their own choices to learn about different content, ideas, or viewpoints from books or texts.

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?
--

I would ensure that we have book selection that is informed, professional, and qualified and relies on the expertise of our community’s librarians and educators. The American Library Association and National Council of Teachers of English outline many clear procedures to ensure we have access to a variety of books, authors, and perspectives and looking to those standards is important. Having committees at schools that can help with selection and review of materials used in courses and looking at the general criteria and content criteria that libraries use to determine book selection are helpful steps. Additionally, issues of access should also consider the types of formats of texts and materials (print, audio-visual, and electronic).

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?
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No, not currently

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?	<b>Yes</b>
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I support our libraries and librarians having access to a professional association/organization to help them continue to grow and connect in their field



**Dr. Erick Knezek, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 7**

<p>1. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>																																				
<p>I do believe there are age-appropriate content that should be restricted for access for underage children in public libraries. For example, sexually explicit materials should be restricted for access to minors without a parent checking out the material. If the parent chooses to share that material, that is their decision.</p>																																					
<p>2. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>																																				
<p>I do not believe a school libraries should have sexually explicit materials.</p>																																					
<p>3. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>																																				
<p>If the child is abiding the law and appropriately behaving, the parent doesn't need to be there assuming the child is of an appropriate age to be in a public space alone.</p> <p>I think a child should have free access to a public library, but age-appropriate materials should require a parent to check out.</p>																																					
<p>4. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>																																				
<p>This is their job. They also have the time and expertise to monitor collections.</p>																																					
<p>5. Do you agree with the following statements of principle?</p>																																					
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**Dr. Erick Knezek, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 7**

8. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?

Properly fund schools.

9. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?

I believe any book describing any sexual content should be restricted to adults only. They can still be there, but need to be checked out by an adult.

10. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?

**Yes**

This is up to the library.



**Dr. Dolores Cormier-Zenon, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 8**

<p>11. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>public</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>																																				
<p>Children should have the opportunity to learn about past experiences. If they are unaware they tend to repeat past issues.</p>																																					
<p>12. Do you believe in book banning, censorship, or any other form of restricting or preventing access to books or materials in <b>school</b> libraries?</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>																																				
<p>Books provide knowledge, insight, and perspective.</p>																																					
<p>13. Do you believe it is a parent's responsibility to monitor their child while visiting a public library?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>																																				
<p>Parents have the ultimate authority to decide what they wish their children will be exposed. Each parent has an opportunity to guide, educate, and help their child through perspective and understanding.</p>																																					
<p>14. Do you feel that trained librarians are the best choice of professionals to make collection decisions for public and school libraries?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>																																				
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**Dr. Dolores Cormier-Zenon, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 8**

18. If elected, how would you ensure that readers will have access to a variety of books available to them and that the public has access to a variety of perspectives?

Restore libraries in schools and take comment from librarians regarding this matter.

19. Are there any books you would like to see censored or removed from public libraries in your community?

None

20. Do you support Louisiana libraries and librarians' continued membership in the American Library Association?

**Yes**

Librarian also need to continue to grow and learn additional techniques and methods to help students embrace learning.