

GOODNOW LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT:

As a central gathering spot for the community and an important means by which citizens seek free access to information, public libraries have historically been governed by independent boards of trustees. This structure, reflected in various provisions of Massachusetts law, is designed to ensure the library is responsive to the community and insulated from political concerns unrelated to the library's core functions.

When Sudbury adopted the charter and Town Manager structure in 1994, it left ambiguous the role of the Trustees relative to the Town Manager. The article proposes to amend the charter to clarify that the Trustees, as elected by the voters, have ultimate responsibility over the library, including setting policy and the supervision of the Library Director.

If the Town Meeting votes in favor of the article (and subject to the approval of the state legislature), the charter will be amended to clarify that the Trustees have ultimate responsibility over the library. A vote against the article would mean that the Town Manager, and not the Trustees, has ultimate responsibility over the Library.