

Office Use Only:

Council District: 21 New Appointment ^X Reappointment Attendance Record:

Library Board of Trustees Commission

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 12:00 Noon on the 4th Monday of each month at the Main Library- 25 Heritage Green Plaza, Greenville.

Name: Thomas Treffinger

Occupation: Retired

Employer: None

Highest Degree Earned: MA

School Attended: University of Georgia

Year of Graduation: 1982

Field of Study: English

Linked In Profile:

Social Media Profile:

Military Experience:

None

Certifications:

None

Civic Organizations / Other Affiliations:

None

Volunteer Experience (Please List & Describe):

Big Brother--1996-2004. I volunteered as a Big Brother to Elliott, a young boy from age 10-18. His mother was divorced and earned minimum wage. I took Elliott to various activities (sporting events, arcades, picnics, etc.) and also helped him with his school work. I stopped serving as his Big Brother when he graduated from high school.

Guardian ad Litem--2014-2020. I volunteered to serve as a child advocate for children who had been taken from their parents/caregivers for various reasons. I served as the voice for the children in the court and with DSS trying to provide the best home for the children. I stopped serving as a Guardian when COVID hit and visiting children in their homes was a health risk.

My interest in serving on the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

I want to advocate for a balance between serving the community of readers in Greenville County while also allowing people access to a wide variety of reading selections. I feel the pendulum has swung too far in the direction of outsiders dictating what people have access to in the library. I believe in a libertarian approach to how the library serves the people of Greenville County.

Describe your understanding of the position for which you are applying:

The board works with the county librarians to ensure the library funds are spent wisely and fairly. The board also works to provide the best services, book selections, and activities that meet the needs and wants of the full range of people who live in Greenville County and use its libraries for a wide variety of purposes. The board should ensure that its decisions best serve the majority of the people in the county while also providing opportunities for minority voices to be heard and acknowledged.

Describe your strengths or skills that would positively contribute to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

I taught high school/college English for forty years, so I know the importance of literacy and reading for everyone and how such skills impact the health of the community at large. I also worked in business for seven years, so I have an understanding of what the needs are of industries. I worked for the publisher McGraw-Hill for one year as a salesman and five years as an editor. My job duties were varied; for example, I tested microcomputer software for several years in the mid-1980s and wrote reports for businesses on the results of those tests. I then worked about a year as an assistant director at an educational research center at Temple University in Philadelphia. I then taught English for over thirty years at Greenville Technical College, even serving as department head for sixteen years. Thus, I have great experience in the areas that directly impact libraries and those they serve.

My community topics of concern that relate to the Library Board of Trustees Commission:

My primary concern is dealing with a problem that affects libraries not only in Greenville County but also throughout South Carolina and the country as a whole: small, vocal groups that want to restrict what books and information people have access to at their local library. Too often these small groups have worked to limit access to books and materials that in their narrow view of the world are problematic or offensive. These people need to be heard and listened to, but they should not be allowed to dictate to the majority simply because certain books and materials do not align with their view of what is appropriate.

Beyond that, I plan to work hard to ensure that library funds are spent carefully to benefit the majority of the people in Greenville County.

Do you currently hold an elected or appointed office or commission?

Yes No

If yes, please list:

Have you previously held an elected or appointed office or commission?

Yes No

If yes, please list:

Have you ever been fined for an ethics violation?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

- Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Are you currently, or have ever been, a part or party to any litigation with or against Greenville County?

- Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Would you be willing to submit to a criminal background check and/or credit check?

- Yes No

Are you aware of the meeting schedule and time commitment for the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes No

Have you attended a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees Commission

- Yes No

Are you aware of the County's attendance policy as it relates to County boards and commissions?

- Yes No

Are you aware this is not a compensated position?

- Yes No

It is the policy of Greenville County to require disclosure of any personal or financial interest that may be influenced by decisions of the Committee, Board or Commission for which any citizen applies for membership.

Do you or a member of your immediate family provide goods and/or services to this board?

- Yes No

Do you or a member of your immediate family benefit from the action of this board?

Yes No

Does your employer provide goods and/or services to this board?

Yes No

Does your employer receive direct services from this board?

Yes No

Does your employer financially benefit from the actions of this board?

Yes No

By signing your name and turning in your application, you agree to and attest to the following:

All information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand it is my responsibility to insure my application is submitted within the application period and that it has been received by the Clerk to Council's office.

I have read the Greenville County Board and Commission Policy and I understand the rules of conduct for the position for which I am applying.

I understand my lack of attendance for three (3) consecutive meetings or 25% of all regular scheduled meetings within a 12-month period may result in my removal from the board.

I understand that I serve at the pleasure of County Council and all appointments are subject to the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act, S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-100 et. seq. Any member appointed to a board or commission whose action is inconsistent or may be perceived to be inconsistent with the spirit or intent of the Act, may be subject for removal.

I understand that information provided in this application may be subject to South Carolina Freedom of Information disclosure.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Applicants are encouraged to notify their representing Council Member of their interest to be considered for a desired board seat.