

Types of Public Libraries and Board Authority

| Library Type | Guiding MCA | Method of Creation | Board Appointment | Budget/Financial Authority | Facilities/Property | Personnel Management | Contracts | # of Libraries |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|--|--|---|----------------|
| City | MCA 22-1-303 thru 311 | Vote of the people and/or city resolution | Mayor/City Council | City has authority over tax revenues; Board has authority over line items, setting and monitoring budget, approving claims, accepting grants/donations. Board reports to city. Library budget and financials follow Local Government Budget Act | Board owns property in the NAME of the city; board has authority over library space and can make changes to library; board can purchase property | Board hires, sets duties, salary for chief librarian and library staff | Board has authority to sign contracts | 22 |
| County | MCA 22-1-303 thru 311 | Vote of the people and/or county resolution | County Commissioners | County has authority over tax revenues; Board has authority over line items, setting and monitoring budget, approving claims, accepting grants/donations. Board reports to county. Library budget and financials follow Local Government Budget Act | Board owns property in the NAME of the county; board has authority over library space and can make changes to library; board can purchase property | Board hires, sets duties, salary for chief librarian and library staff | Board has authority to sign contracts | 28 |
| Joint City-County | MCA 22-1-314 thru 317 | Interlocal agreement – may have been a vote of the people | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally a mix of city and county | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority over line items per MCA 22-1-309 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally the board has the same authority as MCA 22-1-309 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority outlined in MCA 22-1-310 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority to sign contracts | 18 |

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | per MCA 22-1-309 | |
| Multi jurisdictional service district | MCA 7-11-1102 and 1112 | Vote of the people | Determined by interlocal agreement | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority over line items per MCA 22-1-309 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally the board has the same authority as MCA 22-1-309 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority outlined in MCA 22-1-310 | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority to sign contracts per MCA 22-1-309 | 5 |
| Independent Library District | MCA 22-1-7 | Vote of the people | Elected | Board works with county; has full authority over budget and line items within the limits of the dedicated property tax mill levy voted on by the community | Board owns library property | Board hires, sets duties, salary for chief librarian and library staff | Board has authority to sign contracts | 4 |
| School/Public | MCA 22-1-312 and 7-11-1 | Interlocal agreement – partnership between school and local government | Determined by interlocal agreement; generally a mix of school and local govt | Determined by interlocal agreement; varies greatly depending on setup of library | Usually owned by the school district board and managed by the school district | Determined by interlocal agreement; varies greatly depending on setup of library | Determined by interlocal agreement; varies greatly depending on setup of library | 6 main libraries; 10 branches |

Notes:

The powers and duties of the board may change if the library is part of a local government structure that is a charter government. MCA 7-3-7 is what guides this type of government. The local government's charter will spell out the duties of the board.

Personnel management and facilities management may vary. MSL staff encourage libraries and local government officials to define each other's roles and expectations. We also encourage boards to use the personnel policies of cities and/or counties - with the addition of the role of the board in hiring, etc. of library directors and staff. Facilities management is sometimes handled entirely by the board or more often handled by both entities depending upon the nature of the work being completed.

Financial authority and how that works in each library varies depending upon whether the library is funded entirely through a dedicated library levy or funded by general fund.

There are 83 main public libraries. Many of those libraries have branches that may have a different structure than the main library. However - it's usually in the form of a school/community library. There are 34 branches.