

Our Pledge to the Jamestown Community

Patmos Library is essential and is an important asset to this community. We do not want Patmos Library to close. We will fight to keep the library open and thriving for many years to come.

Many in the community are frustrated with the current library board for not being responsive to community concerns. It is clear that the residents of Jamestown Township have legitimate concerns that have been dismissed.

The board has a responsibility to both the good of the library and to the taxpayers and voters who fund the library and elect its leadership. As trustees, we will advocate for the library as an essential part of our community and place the interests of the people of Jamestown Township above the interests of government, corporations, special interests, or entities and individuals outside of the Jamestown community.

We will promote policies that support the community's needs and values. As trustees, we commit to being transparent, accessible, and responsive to community concerns. We will work to address these concerns and promote family friendly policies.

We affirm that parents are the final arbiters of what material is and is not appropriate for their children to read and view. The library should not act in the place of parents but should aid parents in their responsibility of deciding what is and is not appropriate for their children.

Childhood innocence should and must be protected by this community and by this library. As board members, we will promote a specific vision and mission and work to implement policy that protects minor children from exposure to age-inappropriate reading material.

The board should have more oversight in the curation of the library's collection. The book selection policies need to be reassessed to be sure they line up with community standards. Books with obscene and graphic sexual material should not be purchased with taxpayer dollars for our community library. Library policy should reflect our community's standard: no sexualization of children.

The library should be a neutral environment and should not promote ideological or partisan displays.

The library board should re-evaluate and examine the resources and advisors that it relies on to make decisions for this community library and its policies.

We will support and prioritize town-hall meetings to allow dialogue with the community.

As candidates, we pledge to use common sense, courage, Michigan Law, and the Constitution when making decisions in our elected roles.

Betty Besteman, Alaina Kwiatkowski, and Kathy VanZandbergen

Find out more about the candidates at protectpatmoslibrary.com