



**ABBY HAFER**

LIBRARY TRUSTEE, INCUMBENT

Caucus Nominee: Yes

Email: [abby.hafer@gmail.com](mailto:abby.hafer@gmail.com)

## **REPLIES TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS QUESTIONS**

### **Q1—Will you maintain the anti-censorship policy of our current board? If not, why not?**

I support having materials of all sorts available to the patrons of the Bedford Free Public Library. This is a crucial part of how the library can help patrons become ever better informed and educated. Further, patrons should be protected from government inquiries as to their internet searches and borrowing records. This policy, known as the Right to Read, is, and always has been an important part of my platform as a candidate. Access to materials, coupled with the protection of privacy, are a central part of how the library operates, and I will do my best to make sure that these policies continue.

### **Q2—Are there changes in current services or new services you would propose to meet the needs of underserved parts of our community?**

Printing by patrons is something that the library is reviewing at present. In the past, when we allowed entirely free printing, some people took advantage of this generosity. Our policy of allowing the printing of 10 free pages per patron per day was very successful. However, the library's new software does not allow this, so we are wrestling with whether to again offer entirely free printing, or to charge for every page. We are currently taking data on how the printers are being used.

I regard the library as part of our social safety net, but even more importantly, I see it as a social springboard—enabling patrons to get jobs, improve their knowledge, and otherwise improve their lives as they wish. It is my fervent wish to allow some free printing, since the ability to print small numbers of resumes, forms, and other job application materials is a part of this enabling process. I hope that we will be able to create a software fix to allow this, or if this does not work, that we will be able to convince patrons to pay a small amount per page, if they print more than ten pages.

**Q3—Bedford’s demographics are changing. Our population is aging and we have an increasing number of residents whose primary language is not English. How can the Library reach out to and better serve these residents**

Our aging population will benefit greatly from downloadable audiobooks, which we currently offer. However, I suspect that the people who would most benefit from this are usually the least able to, due to uneasiness with technology. I hope that the library can continue to reach out, and help make people comfortable and able to access this important technology.

Having collections in languages other than English, as we do already, is an important part of helping Bedford’s citizens honor and enjoy their heritages. Continuing to do this, and to have events honoring various cultural holidays celebrated in other parts of the world is an important part of our programming. I look forward to the future, when we can again do more of these events in person, when this is appropriate.