

Library Type	Guiding MCA	Method of creation	Board Appointment	Budget/Financial Authority	Facilities/Property	Personnel Management	Contracts	Number of libraries in this category
City Library	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 budget, 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 Library	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 budget, 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 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 Library	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 22-1-309	Determined by interlocal agreement; generally the board has 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 MCA 22-1-309	18
Multi jurisdictional service district	MCA Title 7, Chapter 11, Part 11	Vote of the people	Determined by interlocal agreement	Determined by interlocal agreement; generally board has authority over line items per 22-1-309	Determined by interlocal agreement; generally the board has 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 MCA 22-1-309	5
Independent Library District	MCA Title 22, Chapter 1, Part 7	Vote of the people	Board members are 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 libraries	MCA 22-1-312 and Title 7, Chapter	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 Title 7, Chapter 3, Part 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.

The number of libraries that fall within that type is approximate for all types except independent library districts. This is due to the complexity of how the library may have been formed or changed over the years. Some libraries began as city libraries created by a resolution of the city and then became city-county libraries.

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.