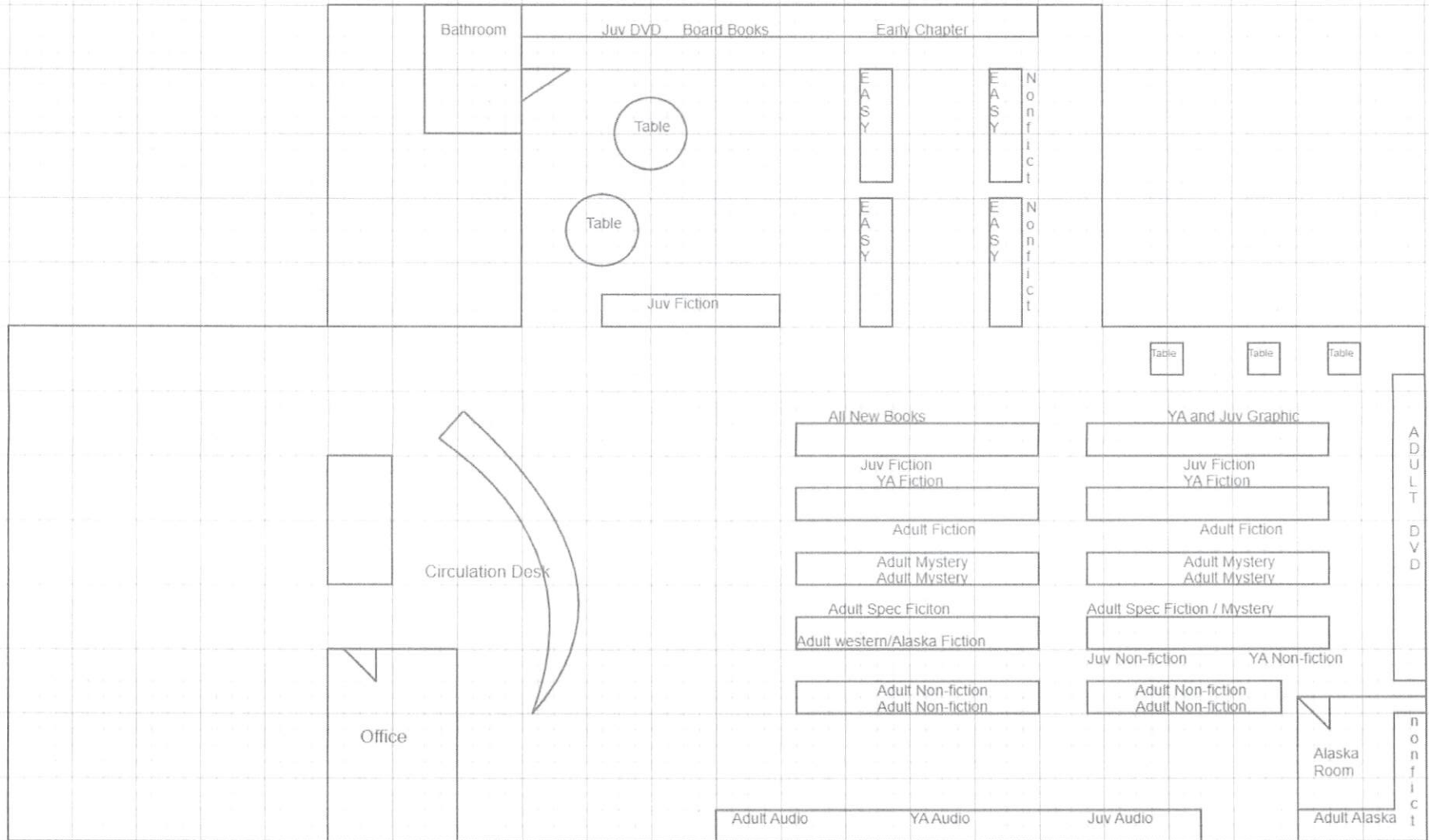
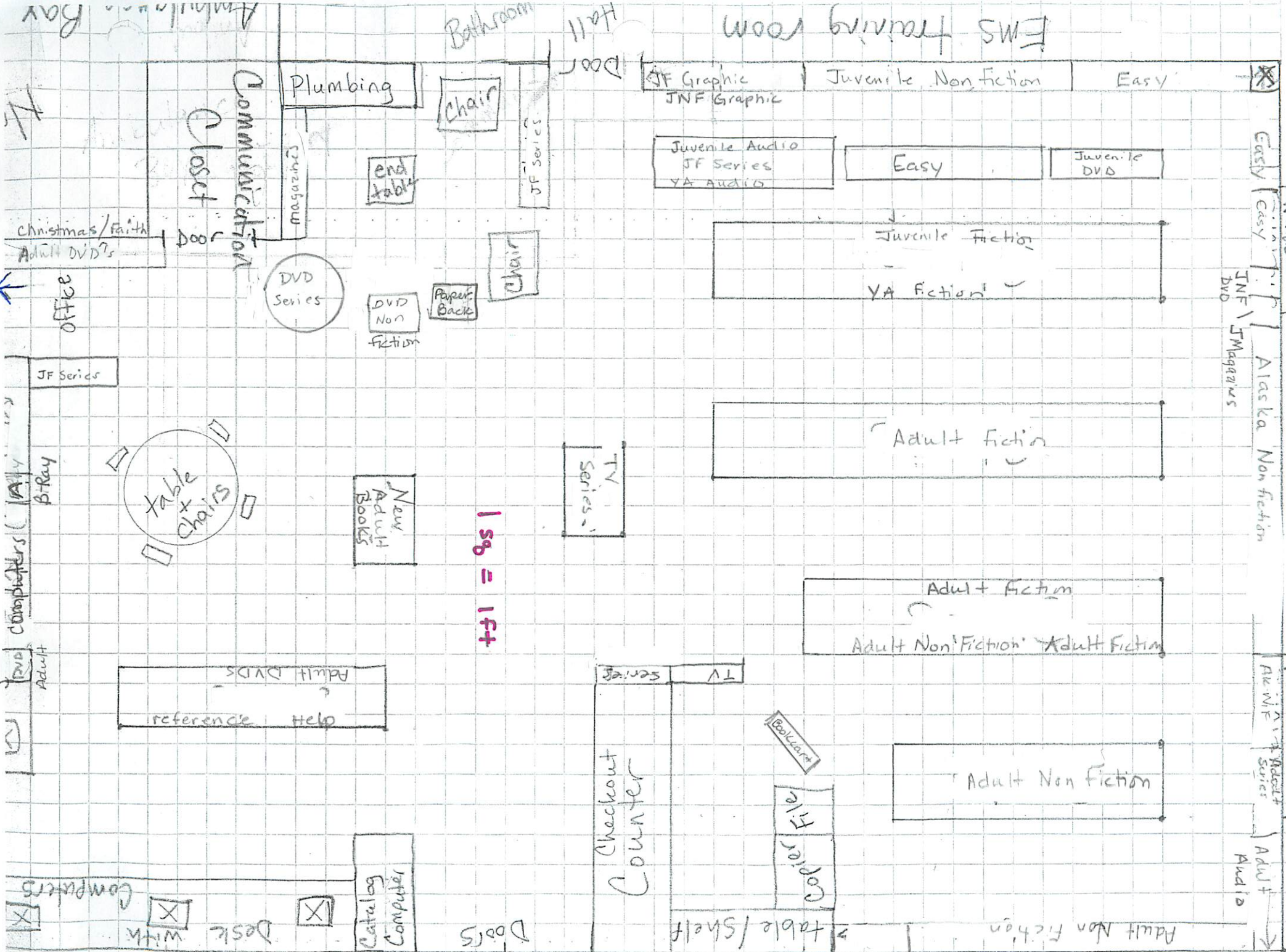


Big Lake Library



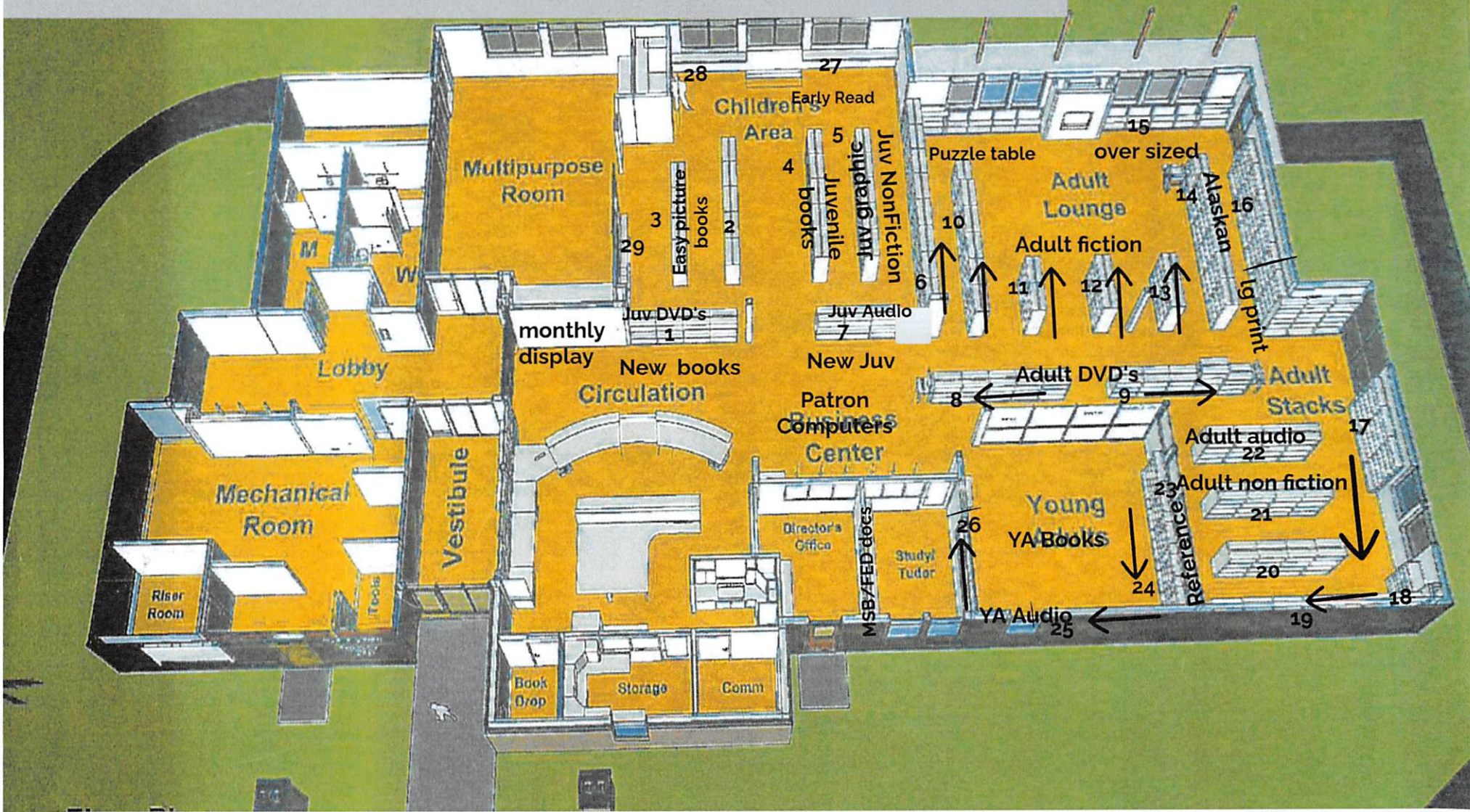
EMS Training room



1 sq = 1 ft

*All shelving against the walls are bolted to the walls and floor. # 28,27&25 are windowsills.
 *All free standing shelving are bolted to the cement floor. they are harder to move because they will come apart .

Talkeetna Library

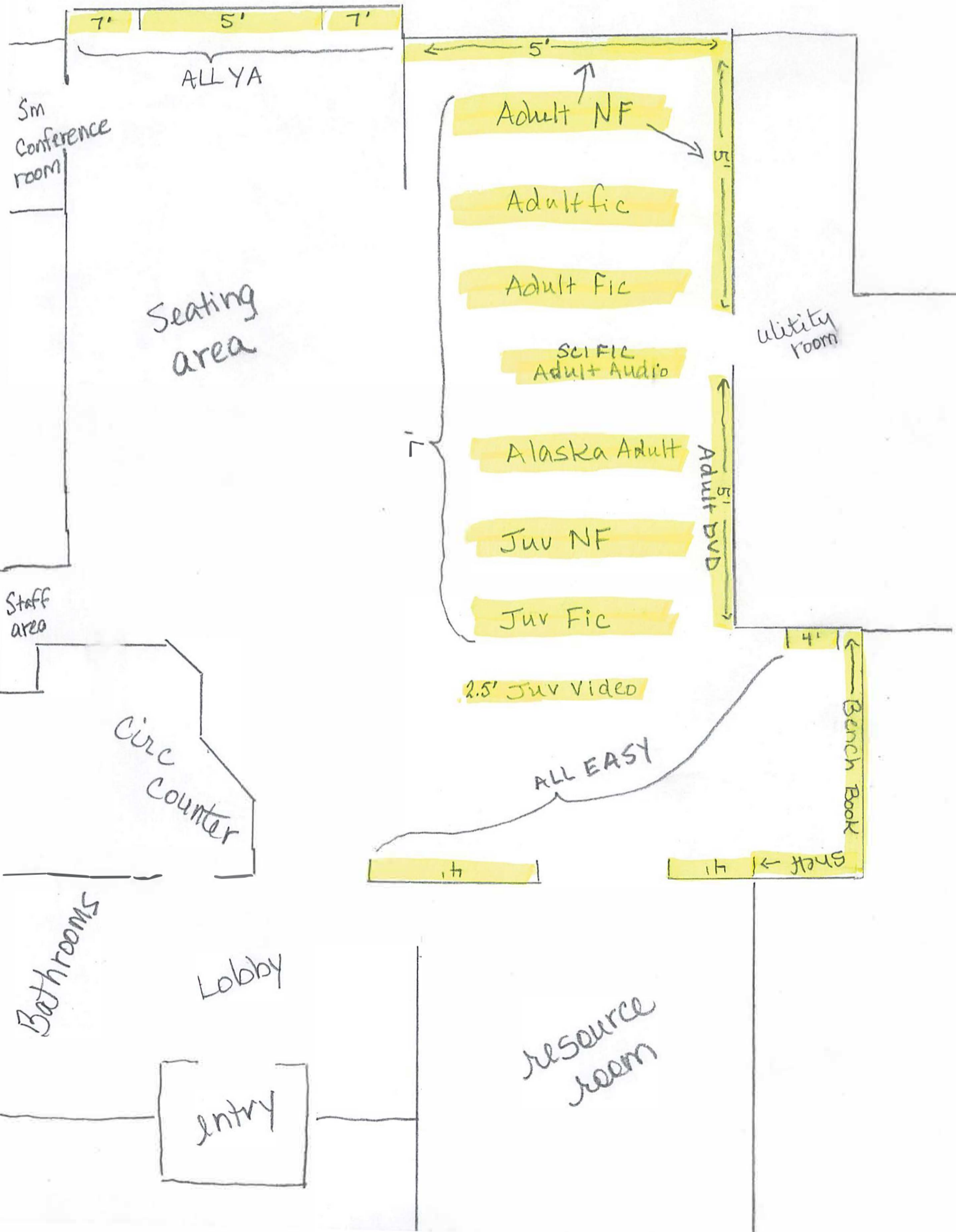


- | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. 12' 2" S | 5. 15' 2" M | 9. 15' 2" M | 13. 6' 2" S | 17. 9' 2" T | 21. 12' 2" M | 25. 12' 2" T |
| 2. 15' 2" S | 6. 24' M | 10. 18' 2" M | 14. 18' 2" M | 18. 3' 2" T | 22. 12' 2" M | 26. 11' 5" M |
| 3. 12' 2" S | 7. 9' 2" + 3' S | 11. 6' 2" M | 15. 15' 2" S | 19. 12' 2" T | 23. 18' 2" M | 27. 12' S |
| 4. 15' 2" M | 8. 15' 2" M | 12. 6' 2" S | 16. 12' 5" + 6' 1" T | 20. 12' 2" M | 24. 21' 2" M | 28. 9' S |
| | | | | | | 29. 9' 2" T |

We have three different heights to our shelving. (S)hort = 4' (M)iddle = 5' and (T)all = 6'6".

SUTTON LIBRARY LAYOUT 2/5/26

Bookshelf measurements are height NOT length



MSBLB Correspondence

From Kathy Kysar <kysarkathy@yahoo.com>

Date Sat 3/7/2026 12:05 PM

To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Please forward the following to the Library Board.

Thanks!

Dear Library Board,

As some of you know, the Library Board Chairperson is responsible for making a presentation to the Assembly every 6 months, in order to keep them informed about all of the great things going on in our 5 public libraries. As recommended by the previous Chairperson, when I was serving as Vice Chair, I was asked to give the presentations.

You need to know that this is a process. The presentation first needs to be submitted to Hugh Leslie, or whoever takes over his library responsibilities, for approval. Sarah needs to make sure it is scheduled and appears on a future assembly agenda. It then needs to be presented to the Library Board for its approval. After all of that, it is presented to the assembly on the scheduled date, not to exceed 7 minutes in length. This entire process takes a couple of months.

The last presentation took place the first week of December, so the next one should take place the first week of June. That means that it should be sent to Hugh for approval by the first week of April so that it can be on the April or May agenda for presentation to the Library Board. I would like to suggest that this be added to your March meeting agenda. It can be added via a motion when the agenda is presented at the beginning of the meeting. That way, you can all decide who will be in charge of the presentation, so that person can create it to be ready to send to Hugh in April. I'd be happy to share the past two presentations that I created if you need some ideas.

This is a very important opportunity to show the assembly the value of our public libraries. Thank you for representing our communities and serving on this board.

Kathy Kysar

Assistant Professor of English, UAF

President, Friends of the Sutton Library

Alaska Chapter Leader, [Authors Against Banned Books](#)

Owner, [Crooked Cabin](#)

I acknowledge and honor that I live on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna peoples. I recognize and respect the continuing connection, by Alaska Native people and all Indigenous people to the land, waters, and communities. I also honor my own traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy in what is now known as Montana, which includes Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, of which I am a descendent.

Sharing my thoughts

From Jen Suing <jensuing16@gmail.com>
Date Wed 2/11/2026 1:10 PM
To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Dear Karen Crandall, I just wanted share my thoughts and opinion on the current censorship situation. This is coming from the heart of a NEW book lover and library user! Growing up I LOATHED reading.....a few years ago I finally figured out the trick, pick up a book that you actually might ENJOY reading, and then boom....I became a book LOVER!! I finally get why some people walk around with a book in their hands, not being able to take their eyes off it!!

I'm so grateful to have a library full of books of ALL shapes and sizes because finding that love for reading definitely isn't a one size fits all!!

I feel like this is all just a joke.....people can't be THAT upset over what OTHER PEOPLE choose to check out and read from the PUBLIC Library.....RIGHT!?

Maybe they thought these books were placed in my children's Elementary School library? Because I don't usually see a DROVE of elementary and middle schoolers at the library lining up to snag the latest Romance book on my must read list! Even high schoolers....yep, haven't had to fight any of them lately for my book club picks!!

I am a very Christian (not that that should matter at all) woman/mother/wife/business owner and I LOVE LOVE my RomComs and Dark Romance novels....I have read a few of the books that apparently were put on the naughty list.....and I absolutely loved them!! I can promise you what's in these books is sooooo much better than the crap we are ALL seeing on the internet!!

I LOVE that my children see me reading, rather than on my phone or in front of a computer! My 7 and 8 year old kids have NEVER picked up (and I have a TON) one of my books and said, mommy read me this for our bedtime story! 😊😊

What a waste of everyone's time and energy on something SO minimal and silly especially when we are seeing what we are seeing on the internet and in the news!!!

Thank you for listening to my thoughts, I would hope as my children grow up they have memories of Mommy happily reading on the couch....because THATS what matters, not the silly story inside the book!

Jen Suing

Library Board Correspondence

From Audrey Mathena <mathenaaudrey833@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/11/2026 2:32 PM

To Sarah Thomas <Sarah.Thomas@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Good afternoon,

My name is Audrey Mathena, resident in Wasilla. I am writing to you because I've heard news that the board has decided to give themselves the ultimate power to ban books from all public libraries in the Burroughs as they so choose. I highly disagree with this decision. We as Americans have a right to freedom of speech and expression, and books are a part of that. It is blatant censorship and overreach to be banning books from the public libraries. One does not need to like or agree with all the content of said books, I'm sure there's plenty of books out there which I would not enjoy whatsoever. But it is never the solution to ban them outright, all because they offend one's delicate sensibilities. Giving one small group of people the authority to decide which speech is 'acceptable' and which isn't is not ever a good decision. There are implicit biases, or personal discomforts that can influence one's ability to make objective decisions. It is not the right of the board, nor any individual, to judge what books can or cannot be stored, borrowed from, and read within our libraries. I highly suggest this decision be reversed, otherwise myself and many others are more than happy to take our complaints higher up the local political food chain.

Thank you for your time,

Audrey Mathena, citizen in support of free speech and expression.

Library Board Correspondence

From Taleen Mikulenko Lundale <txawaiian@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 2/11/2026 3:48 PM

To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hello Sarah,

I'm writing to respectfully ask that you oppose efforts to ban books in our public libraries.

Public libraries exist to provide access to a wide range of ideas, perspectives, and experiences. Removing books limits intellectual freedom and restricts the ability of individuals and families to make their own choices about what they read. Parents already have the right to guide their children's selections, but those decisions should not remove access for others in the community.

Libraries are strongest when they reflect diverse viewpoints and support the freedom to read. Protecting that freedom helps ensure our community remains open, informed, and respectful of differing opinions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taleen Lundale

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

SENATE BILL NO. 238

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR KAWASAKI

Introduced: 2/9/26

Referred: Education, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the**
2 **offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and**
3 **distribution of indecent material to minors."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 11.41.452 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (f) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that, at the
7 time of the offense, the defendant was acting in the course of employment as an
8 employee or official of a school, museum, or public library.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 11.51.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that, at the
11 time of the offense, the defendant was acting in the course of employment as an
12 employee or official of a school, museum, or public library.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 11.61.128 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (f) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that, at the

1 time of the offense, the defendant was acting in the course of employment as an
 2 employee or official of a school, museum, or public library.

3 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 **Article 7. Access to Library Material.**

5 **Sec. 14.56.450. Public library material policy.** (a) A librarian employed by a
 6 public library may curate library material for inclusion in the public library according
 7 to the policy approved by the governing body of the public library.

8 (b) The commissioner shall establish and update as necessary a model policy
 9 on the curation and reconsideration of library material within a public library. The
 10 policy must provide standards for the selection and curation of library material,
 11 establish criteria for the removal of existing library material, and provide protection
 12 against attempts to censor library material. At a minimum, the policy must

13 (1) recognize that a public library serves as a center for voluntary
 14 inquiry and the dissemination of information and is the marketplace of ideas;

15 (2) promote the free expression of, and free access to, ideas by
 16 prohibiting the censorship of library material;

17 (3) prohibit the removal of library material from a public library based
 18 on the origin of, background of, or views expressed by the library material or of those
 19 contributing to its creation;

20 (4) recognize that library material is provided for the interest,
 21 information, and enlightenment of all people and should present a wide range of points
 22 of view;

23 (5) establish a procedure, based on professional standards, for a
 24 librarian to review the inclusion of library material within a public library on an
 25 ongoing basis, which must include consideration of

26 (A) the relevance of the library material;

27 (B) the condition of the library material;

28 (C) the availability of duplicates of the library material;

29 (D) the availability of a more recent library material; and

30 (E) the continued demand for the library material;

31 (6) establish a model form and a procedure for an individual to request

1 a public library to reconsider library material; the procedure must

2 (A) allow an individual who has used the services of the public
3 library in the past five years and who resides in the public library's designated
4 service area to initiate the review of a specific library material by submitting a
5 request for the public library to reconsider the library material;

6 (B) require that an individual submitting a request for a public
7 library to reconsider library material review the library material as a whole and
8 not challenge library material based on selective passages that are taken out of
9 context;

10 (C) provide that, during the review process, the library material
11 subject to reconsideration may not be removed from its location within the
12 public library and must remain available for a patron to reserve, check out, or
13 access;

14 (D) require that at least one librarian employed at the public
15 library where the request was submitted formally participate in the review
16 process; and

17 (E) provide a process by which an individual can appeal a
18 decision made on reconsideration, using the standards set out in (5)(A) - (E) of
19 this subsection.

20 (c) The governing body of a public library shall adopt the model policy
21 established by the commissioner under (b) of this section, as well as any updates to the
22 model policy. The governing body of a public library that has a policy that meets the
23 requirements set out in (b) of this section on the effective date of this section is not
24 required to take further action.

25 (d) The governing body of a public library may not remove library material
26 from a public library based on the origin of, background of, or views expressed by the
27 library material or of those contributing to its creation. The governing body of a public
28 library may not, based on disagreement with the ideas or concepts expressed by the
29 library material, including objections to a depiction of race, gender, sexuality, or
30 religious or political views, prohibit the public library from acquiring, maintaining, or
31 displaying a specific work or subject matter, restrict access or searchability of library

1 material, or require parental permission for a minor to access library material.

2 (e) The governing body of a public library may not, based on objections to
3 sexual content, prohibit the public library from acquiring, maintaining, or displaying a
4 specific work or subject matter, restrict access or searchability of library material, or
5 require parental permission for a minor to access library material unless, with respect
6 to the specific population to which the library material is made available,

7 (1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards,
8 would find the library material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;

9 (2) the library material depicts or describes, in a patently offensive
10 way, sexual conduct defined by AS 11.66.150; and

11 (3) the library material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic,
12 political, or scientific value.

13 (f) A government entity that exercises authority over the purchase, selection,
14 curation, and location of library material at the state or municipal level may not reduce
15 funding for a public library because of the public library's compliance with this
16 section.

17 (g) An employee of a public library is immune from civil and criminal liability
18 arising from good faith actions performed under this section.

19 **Sec. 14.56.455. School library material policy.** (a) A librarian employed at a
20 school library may select, purchase, and acquire library material for inclusion in the
21 school library according to the policy approved by the governing body of the school
22 library.

23 (b) The commissioner shall establish and update as necessary a model policy
24 on the curation and reconsideration of library material within a school library. The
25 policy must provide standards for the selection and curation of library material,
26 establish criteria for the removal of existing library material, and provide protection
27 against attempts to censor library material. At a minimum, the policy must

28 (1) recognize that library material is provided for the interest,
29 information, and enlightenment of all students and should present a wide range of
30 points of view in the collection;

31 (2) prohibit the removal of library material from a school library based

1 on the origin of, background of, or views expressed by the library material or of those
2 contributing to its creation;

3 (3) recognize the importance of a school library as a center for
4 voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas;

5 (4) promote the free expression of, and free access to, ideas by students
6 by prohibiting the censorship of library material;

7 (5) acknowledge that a school librarian is professionally trained to
8 curate and develop a school library collection that provides students with access to the
9 widest array of developmentally relevant library material created for the chronological
10 ages and grade levels of students in the school;

11 (6) establish a procedure, based on professional standards, for a
12 librarian to review the inclusion of library material within a school library on an
13 ongoing basis, which must include consideration of

14 (A) the relevance of the library material;

15 (B) the condition of the library material;

16 (C) the availability of duplicates of the library material;

17 (D) the availability of more recent developmentally relevant
18 library material created for the chronological ages and grade levels of students
19 in the school; and

20 (E) the continued demand for the library material; and

21 (7) establish a model form and procedure for an individual to request a
22 school library to reconsider library material; the procedure must

23 (A) allow teaching staff employed by the school district,
24 parents and guardians of a student enrolled in the school district, and students
25 enrolled in the school district to initiate the review of a specific library material
26 by submitting to the principal of the school in which the library material is
27 challenged a request for the school library to reconsider the library material;

28 (B) require that an individual submitting a request for a school
29 library to reconsider library material review the library material as a whole and
30 not challenge library material based on selective passages that are taken out of
31 context;

1 (C) provide that, during the review process, the library material
 2 subject to reconsideration may not be removed from its location within the
 3 library and must remain available for students to reserve, check out, or access;

4 (D) require that at least one school librarian employed at the
 5 school and professionally trained to a level determined by the school district
 6 formally participate in the review process; and

7 (E) provide a process by which an individual can appeal a
 8 decision made on reconsideration, using the standards set out in (6)(A) - (E) of
 9 this subsection.

10 (c) A school board shall adopt the model policy established by the
 11 commissioner under (b) of this section, as well as any updates to the model policy. A
 12 school board that has adopted a policy that meets the requirements set out in (b) of this
 13 section on the effective date of this section is not required to take further action.

14 (d) A school board may not remove library material from a school library
 15 based on the origin of, background of, or views expressed by the library material or of
 16 those contributing to its creation. The school board may not, based on disagreement
 17 with the ideas or concepts expressed by the library material, including objections to a
 18 depiction of race, gender, sexuality, or religious or political views, prohibit a school
 19 library from acquiring, maintaining, or displaying a specific work or subject matter,
 20 restrict access or searchability of library material, or require parental permission for a
 21 minor to access library material.

22 (e) An employee of a school library is immune from civil and criminal
 23 liability arising from good faith actions performed under this section.

24 **Sec. 14.56.460. Private right of action.** (a) A government entity that exercises
 25 authority over the purchase, selection, curation, and location of library material at the
 26 state or local level may not

27 (1) censor or order another person to censor library material; or

28 (2) impose discipline, threaten to impose discipline, or terminate a
 29 school or library employee for refusing to censor library material.

30 (b) A school or library employee may bring an action in a court of competent
 31 jurisdiction for damages, including punitive damages, and for declaratory and

1 injunctive relief and other remedies as may be appropriate against a government entity
 2 that violates (a)(2) of this section by disciplining, terminating, or threatening to
 3 discipline or terminate the librarian for the librarian's refusal to censor library material.

4 (c) A student, or the student's parent or guardian, may bring an action in a
 5 court of competent jurisdiction for declaratory and injunctive relief and for damages
 6 against a government entity that violates (a)(1) of this section by censoring or ordering
 7 another person to censor library material within a school attended by the student.
 8 Damages shall be awarded at a minimum of \$451, but not more than \$1,451, for each
 9 censored work.

10 (d) An author, bookseller, or publisher may bring an action in a court of
 11 competent jurisdiction for declaratory and injunctive relief and for damages against a
 12 government entity that violates (a)(1) of this section by censoring or ordering another
 13 person to censor library material written, sold, or published by the author, bookseller,
 14 or publisher. Damages shall be awarded at a minimum of \$451, but not more than
 15 \$1,451, for each censored work.

16 (e) In an action under this section, the court shall grant a prevailing plaintiff
 17 reasonable attorney fees and costs, including expert witness fees.

18 (f) A government entity may not use funds that would otherwise have been
 19 appropriated or allocated to a library to pay damages, attorney fees, or other related
 20 costs.

21 (g) It is an affirmative defense to an action brought under this section that, at
 22 the time of the conduct giving rise to the action, the government actor or member of
 23 the government was acting under direct compulsion from binding state or federal
 24 government authority.

25 (h) An action to enforce this section must be commenced within three years
 26 after the date on which the violation of this section occurred.

27 **Sec. 14.56.465. Definitions.** In AS 14.56.450 - 14.56.465,

28 (1) "block" means to prohibit the acquiring, maintaining, or displaying
 29 of a specific work or subject matter, restricting access to or searchability of works, or
 30 to require parental permission to access works;

31 (2) "censor" means to block library material based on disagreement

1 with the ideas or concepts expressed by the material, or based on objections to sexual
2 content, without having made a finding that, with respect to the specific population to
3 which the material is made available,

4 (A) the average person, applying contemporary community
5 standards, would find the library material, taken as a whole, appeals to the
6 prurient interest;

7 (B) the library material depicts or describes, in a patently
8 offensive way, sexual conduct defined by AS 11.66.150; and

9 (C) the library material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary,
10 artistic, political, or scientific value;

11 (3) "librarian" means an employee who is trained as required by the
12 employer and who is responsible for the purchase, selection, curation, removal, and
13 display of library material;

14 (4) "library material" means a book, video, subscription or locally
15 curated database, periodical, chart, graph, movie, game, map, interactive application
16 and software, other enrichment or entertainment material, and, for a school library,
17 other material not required as part of classroom instruction, in a printed or electronic
18 format belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of a public library or
19 school library;

20 (5) "public library" means a library established under AS 14.56.400;

21 (6) "reconsider" means to reclassify, move to a different section of the
22 library, or remove from the library an item in the library's collection.

MSBLB Correspondence

From Kathy Kysar <kysarkathy@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 2/13/2026 3:40 PM

To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

 1 attachment (107 KB)

02.10.26 K.Crandall_8_Wicked_For Good_The Devil's Daughter_Bad Asians_The Blood Countess_Haunted Mansion_War Games_My Sister the Werebeast_Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin (1).pdf;

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Dear Borough Library Board Members,

I am writing to address the recent materials that were flagged for review at your February meeting. As you know, when items are flagged, the ordering and processing of new materials must be put on hold until the review has been completed. This delays our ability to provide current books and resources to patrons, often by several months, significantly affecting the quality and timeliness of service our public libraries are able to offer.

It is essential that each board member approaches the materials-flagging process with care and intention. Flagging titles based solely on their titles or your own personal assumptions, without reviewing content or consulting reliable, professional sources, creates unnecessary barriers for community members who rely on us for access to diverse, up-to-date materials.

Attached, you will find objective reviews for the eight books that were flagged by Karen Crandall at the February meeting. These reviews come from standard industry sources used by libraries nationwide and provide clear, balanced assessments of each title.

I encourage the board to take a step back and consider how the current pattern of flagging impacts patrons across our communities. When materials are delayed, so is access to information, learning opportunities, and the freedom to read, core values our libraries are built upon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to supporting our public libraries.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kysar

Assistant Professor of English, UAF

President, Friends of the Sutton Library

[Authors Against Banned Books](#), Alaska Chapter Leader

Crooked Cabin, Owner

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/CrookedCabinAlaska>

I acknowledge and honor that I live on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna peoples. I recognize and respect the continuing connection, by Alaska Native people and all Indigenous people to the land, waters, and communities. I also honor my own traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy in what is now known as Montana, which includes Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, of which I am a descendent.

Kathy Kysar's reviews of 8 Books Flagged by Karen Crandall - *Wicked: For Good*_The Devil's Daughter_Bad Asians_The Blood Countess_Haunted Mansion_War Games_My Sister the Werebeast_Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin

Wicked: For Good – Adult DVD – Big Lake

Wicked: For Good is a dazzling behind-the-scenes DVD celebrating the artistry and emotional power of one of Broadway's most iconic musicals, and its impressive awards recognition makes it even more valuable for a public library. The film has earned numerous nominations across major award bodies—including BAFTA Award nominations for Best Costume Design and Best Make Up & Hair and multiple Golden Globe nominations, plus wide recognition from critics' associations and craft guilds—underscoring its exceptional production quality. This DVD will appeal to theater lovers, music enthusiasts, and documentary fans, making it a strong circulation driver for any library's performing arts collection.

The Devil's Daughter, by Danielle Steel – Adult Fiction – Big Lake

Danielle Steel's *The Devil's Daughter* is an emotionally charged, character-driven novel about two very different sisters navigating family trauma, ambition, and moral complexity. Steel is one of the world's most celebrated and bestselling authors, consistently producing national bestsellers and holding a long-standing reputation for compelling, high-circulation fiction. Public libraries benefit from including her works because patron demand for her novels remains reliably high across generations.

Bad Asians, by Lillian Li – Adult Fiction – Big Lake

Lillian Li's *Bad Asians* is a sharp, funny, emotionally rich exploration of friendship, cultural identity, and millennial disillusionment. It has received strong early recognition as one of Lit Hub's "Most Anticipated Books of 2026," signaling significant literary interest. Its contemporary themes and multicultural perspective make it a valuable addition to a public library, inviting conversation and appealing to modern readers seeking diverse voices.

The Blood Countess, by Shelley Puhak – Adult Fiction – Big Lake

The Blood Countess blends true crime, feminist history, and gripping narrative, offering readers a fresh and research-driven look at the notorious Elizabeth Báthory. Shelley Puhak is a highly decorated writer, having earned the Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize, the National Poetry Series, and multiple state arts awards for her earlier works. Her award-winning literary reputation ensures a high-quality reading experience, making this book an excellent pick for public libraries with patrons who enjoy historical nonfiction and narrative investigations.

Haunted Mansion, by Ridley Pearson – Early Chapter – Big Lake

Ridley Pearson's *Haunted Mansion* is a delightfully spooky early-chapter adventure that captures young readers' imaginations with Disney magic, mysterious ghosts, and fast-paced fun. Pearson is an Edgar Award nominee and an established New York Times bestselling children's author, lending strong credibility and appeal to this book. Titles like this help grow early reading confidence and are ideal for young patrons seeking lighthearted thrills.

Kathy Kysar's reviews of 8 Books Flagged by Karen Crandall - Wicked: For Good_The Devil's Daughter_Bad Asians_The Blood Countess_Haunted Mansion_War Games_My Sister the Werebeast_Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin

War Games, by Alan Gratz – Juv Fiction – Big Lake

Alan Gratz's *War Games* is a gripping mix of historical suspense, sports drama, and moral courage—an ideal choice for juvenile readers who enjoy adventure with real-world resonance. The book is an Instant #1 New York Times Bestseller, an Indie Bestseller, a Junior Library Guild selection, and named one of Amazon's Best Books of 2025 for Children Ages 9–12. Its accolades demonstrate strong critical and commercial appeal, making it a high-value addition to any public library's middle-grade collection.

My Sister the Werebeast, by Alina Tysoe – Juv Fiction – Big Lake

My Sister the Werebeast is a funny, warm, and magically chaotic graphic novel perfect for middle-grade readers who love fantasy and humor. It has already earned major recognition as a 2025 Kirkus Prize Finalist, highlighting its literary and artistic excellence. With vibrant artwork and endearing characters, it promises strong circulation among graphic-novel fans and young readers exploring identity, family, and adventure.

Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin, by Nancy Springer – YA Fiction – Big Lake

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Clanging Coffin* continues the beloved YA mystery series with clever plotting, Victorian atmosphere, and the ever-resourceful Enola. The *Enola Holmes* franchise is widely recognized, with the original film adaptation earning multiple awards—including a Saturn Award for Best Film Presentation on Streaming Media, Kids' Choice Award for Favorite Movie Actress, and other distinctions celebrating performance, casting, and music. This tie-in popularity will drive strong reader interest, making it an excellent addition to library YA mystery shelves.

This material was compiled with the help of Microsoft Copilot.

Library Board Correspondence

From Melinda Dale <mbcdale@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 2/23/2026 11:45 AM

To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

February 23, 2026

Dear Mat Su Library Board Members:

I recently sent a public opinion message to the Mayor and Borough Assembly and want you to have a copy.

"I am opposed to giving the Mat Su Library Board power to flag materials which censor librarians' orders for the five Borough libraries. I have attended their meetings, and it seems that objections are often made arbitrarily and because of personal ideologies. I realize that Ms. Morrissey has the final decision, but I don't think it is necessary for the Library Board to weigh in. I protest that a small group of people who have been politically appointed should be able to tell individual community libraries what they are allowed to have in their adult sections. I trust our librarian to fill our library shelves with an eclectic collection that can appeal to many different kinds of readers!

One of the most recent materials that was flagged was Wicked, an award winning musical rated PG, which was requested by a patron. Why? It perhaps comes down to the title, but that is a ridiculous reason to object to it. So, the patron who requested it will be disappointed. Why? I trust Ms. Morrissey will make the right decision to allow its purchase, but I question that this small group chosen by Mayor DeVries is allowed to have this power over Borough libraries. I do not agree with the need to flag any of the books at the February meeting. As adults, we do not need to have items censored! It is time for this to change. Please do not allow censorship of library books and media by the Mat Su Library Board. They are not qualified to make these recommendations. This may be technically legal, but it is not right."

I would like to add that selecting materials at the February meeting without clarifying the reason is even more problematic. Just looking through a list of titles and pointing out books according to their titles is not fair to librarians or patrons. Please do not flag materials that librarians have included in their orders!

Thank you,

Melinda Dale
Willow Library Patron



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Community Development Department

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-7869 • <https://matsu.gov>

Date: March 10, 2026
To: Library Board
From: Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director
RE: Flagged Library Material – Final Decisions

Title: When We Were Monsters
Author: Jennifer Niven
Collection: Young Adult Fiction
Month Flagged: November 2025

The Mat-Su Borough Libraries' Young Adult (YA) Collection is intended for patrons ages 16 and up, and reviews consistently show that this title is suitable for the YA Collection. Based on review analysis, *When We Were Monsters* meets the criteria for suitable subject matter, reading level, and has favorable reviews and can be purchased and shelved in the YA Collection.

Title: Brimstone
Author: Callie Hart
Collection: Adult Fiction
Month Flagged: December 2025

Brimstone by Callie Hart aligns with the Adult Fiction collection as a contemporary work of adult fiction that serves a clearly defined and demonstrated reader interest. Reviews consistently identify the novel as adult 'romantasy', a genre with sustained popularity among adult readers. This title supports the Library's role as a Popular Materials Center, providing access to current, high-demand recreational reading. *Brimstone* meets multiple selection criteria, including favorable reviews, demonstrated reader interest and support for recreational reading and is approved for purchase for the Adult Collection.

Title: Quicksilver
Author: Callie Hart
Collection: Adult Fiction
Month Flagged: December 2025

At this time, purchase of *Quicksilver* will not be purchased due to the title's existing availability through the Alaska Library Collection (ALC). The book is currently held by seven libraries within the ALC, including Wasilla, providing Mat-Su Borough patrons with reasonable access via interlibrary loan without the need for immediate local duplication.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.

It is requested that library staff track patron request and fulfillment timelines for this title and provide that data for future consideration, should demand or access conditions change.

Title: The Bewitching

Author: Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Collection: Adult Fiction

Month Flagged: January 2026

At this time, purchase of *The Bewitching* will not be purchased due to its current availability through the Alaska Library Collection (ALC). The title is held by twelve libraries statewide, including three Mat-Su Borough libraries, providing patrons with direct local access as well as additional access through interlibrary loan.

It is requested that library staff track patron request and fulfillment timelines for this title and provide that data for future consideration, should demand or access conditions change.

Title: Flesh

Author: David Szalay

Collection: Adult Fiction

Month Flagged: January 2026

Flesh meets multiple selection criteria, including recognized literary or artistic quality (winner of the Booker Prize), favorable professional reviews, demonstrated and anticipated demand, and enhancement of the Adult Fiction collection. The novel strengthens the collection by representing internationally recognized literary fiction and supports the library's mission to provide access to culturally and intellectually significant works.



Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Library Board Member Flagged Library Material Review

Title:	Line # from the list from which the title
Author:	was pulled:
Library(ies) requesting this material:	Collection:
Board member who flagged:	Format of the material:

Does the material demonstrate at least one of the following? [Please check all that apply]

1. Relevance to identified community needs
2. Suitable subject, format, and reading level
3. Timely or historically significant content
4. Credibility of author, publisher, or producer
5. Favorable professional reviews
6. Documented patron or staff interest
7. Enhancement of the existing collection
8. Strengthening of a targeted collection area
9. Limited availability through other lending sources
10. Filling gaps in subject coverage
11. Local authorship or illustration
12. Recognized literary or artistic quality
13. Factual accuracy
14. Demonstrated or anticipated demand

Is the material in good condition or appearance? [For donated material]

Was this item requested by a patron?

Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?

