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Waukee Public Library Goes Fine-Free for All

Library Board of Trustees voted to turn the page on late fines beginning May 10, 2022.

Waukee, Iowa (May 9, 2022) — The [Waukee Public Library](https://www.waukeepubliclibrary.org) will no longer charge late fines on books and most other materials in an effort to make information and opportunities equally accessible to all. This policy change aligns the library with others across the country to create free and open public library systems that don't disproportionately impact lower-income residents.

"Monetary fines no longer serve the core mission of the modern library, which is to provide materials, resources and programs to the entire community," said Library Director Kristine Larson. "The revised policy will remove a barrier to access, allowing us to serve more patrons through everything public libraries offer to grow and thrive."

Under the new policies:

- Patrons of all ages will no longer need to pay fines on most overdue materials.
- Borrowing privileges will no longer be denied if cardholders accrue \$5 or more in unpaid fines.
- Library patrons will still pay replacement fees for lost or damaged material. Materials are considered lost after being overdue for 90 days. No fees will apply if the materials are returned.
- Hotspots will continue to accrue fines due to the high expense of replacement and the cost of maintaining annual service contracts.

The Library collected over \$15,000 in late fines during Fiscal Year 2019, accounting for only 2% of the total library budget pre-pandemic. The Library Board of Trustees suspended fines in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to reduce disparities and increase access to the library, the Board voted to permanently eliminate overdue fines effective May 10, 2022.

Library materials will continue to have due dates and are expected to be returned. Library patrons will continue to receive reminders when their materials are due. Readers can find more information at [waukeepubliclibrary.org](https://www.waukeepubliclibrary.org).

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About the Waukee Public Library:

The Waukee Public Library operates as part of the City of Waukee. It is governed by a seven-member board of trustees. In 2021 alone, nearly 46,000 visitors walked through the Library doors and nearly 185,000 items were checked out. In addition to providing books, digital materials, meeting space, and computer access, the Waukee Public Library hosts hundreds of programs and events each year to educate and enlighten Waukee area citizens of all ages. Visit [waukeepubliclibrary.org](https://www.waukeepubliclibrary.org).