

1 [Affirming San Francisco’s Commitment to Protecting Public Libraries from Federal
2 Book Bans]
3 **Resolution affirming the City and County of San Francisco’s commitment to**
4 **intellectual freedom opposing federally imposed book bans in public libraries and**
5 **urging the San Francisco Public Library to continue protections to safeguard**
6 **access to diverse and inclusive materials within the San Francisco Public Library**
7 **system.**

8 WHEREAS, In 2023, the State of California passed Assembly Bill 1079, authored
9 by Assemblymember Corey Jackson and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, which
10 prohibits the banning of instructional materials and books in public schools based on
11 their inclusion of diverse perspectives on race, gender, and LGBTQ+ identity, and
12 requires transparency and state oversight when school boards attempt to remove
13 educational content, thereby establishing California as a national leader in fighting
14 censorship and promoting inclusive education¹; and

15 WHEREAS, In January 2025, the federal administration signed Executive Order
16 14168, Executive Order 14185, and Executive Order 14190 that would require federally
17 funded U.S. Department of Defense K-12 schools to remove books, textbooks, and
18 curriculum relating to race and gender ideology from their classrooms and libraries²;
19 and

¹ Corey Jackson, “California Assembly Bill 1079,” LegiScan, February 15, 2023, <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1079/id/2840740>.

² The White House, “Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,” January 21, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>.

1 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Education, 555 books and 41
2 curricular materials have already been removed from schools for review³; and

3 WHEREAS, According to PEN America, over 75% of books banned are “young
4 adult, middle grade, or children’s titles”, all of which are specifically written and selected
5 for younger audiences⁴; and

6 WHEREAS, According to First Book, a nonprofit working to remove barriers to
7 quality education for children living in low-income communities, 78% of educators said
8 students read more when they have the freedom to choose what they want to read—
9 including access to banned books; and

10 WHEREAS, According to First Book, 72% of educators noted that when students’
11 access to books is restricted, their reading engagement declines⁵; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the National Literacy Trust, 61.1% of youth
13 surveyed agreed with the statement, “I think it is important for story and information
14 books to include characters or people from lots of different backgrounds”, in 2022; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the National Literacy Trust, while only 38.9% of
16 children agreed with the statement, “Reading about characters that are like me makes
17 me feel more confident about myself”, the percentage increased for students from
18 ethnic minorities, with 48.9% of Black students surveyed agreeing with the statement⁶;
19 and

³ Sam LaFrance, “The Trump Administration Is Banning Books on Military Bases. We Sued. | ACLU,” *American Civil Liberties Union*, June 6, 2025, <https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/the-trump-administration-is-banning-books-on-military-bases-we-sued>.

⁴ “New Report: Book Bans Spike by 33% Over Last School Year,” PEN America, May 29, 2024, <https://pen.org/press-release/new-report-book-bans-spike-by-33-over-last-school-year/>.

⁵ First Book Staff, “The Impact of Book Bans on Educators and Students,” First Book, January 16, 2025, <https://firstbook.org/blog/2024/12/20/how-book-bans-are-impacting-teachers-and-students-insights-from-first-book-research-insights/>.

⁶ Irene Picton et al., “Seeing Yourself in What You Read: Diversity and Children and Young People’s Reading in 2022,” 2022, https://nlit.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Diversity_in_children_and_young_peoples_reading_in_2022_ACveW4k.pdf.

1 WHEREAS, Classrooms and public libraries have long served as fundamental
2 institutions of education and curiosity, and the federal administration’s move to censor
3 information within the Department of Education poses an imminent threat to the future
4 of educational centers across the nation, blatantly infringing on the First Amendment
5 right to free speech and access to information⁷; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) has long upheld the
7 principles of free and open access to information, through its active participation in
8 Banned Books Week, its support of the Library Bill of Rights, and its creation of public
9 programming and reading lists that center voices from diverse communities⁸; and

10 WHEREAS, Affirming its ongoing commitment to resisting censorship and
11 fostering inclusive intellectual exploration for all San Franciscans; and, now, therefore,
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission affirms its unwavering
14 support for the San Francisco Public Library’s mission to provide free and open access
15 to a wide range of ideas, information, and voices, including those reflecting the
16 experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, communities of color, and historically marginalized
17 groups; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco Youth Commission staff are directed
19 to transmit copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of Supervisors,
20 San Francisco Library Commission, and other elected officials representing San
21 Francisco.

⁷ Picton et al., “Seeing Yourself in What You Read: Diversity and Children and Young People’s Reading in 2022.”

⁸ KTVU FOX 2 San Francisco, “SF Public Library Fights Censorship, Celebrates ‘Banned Book Week,’” October 4, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe2p441z7-k>.