

IV. Legislation and Policies

B.1. Policies – Library District Exemption – Action item

The following Request for Exemption from the Criteria for a Proposed Library District was in place as an agency rule beginning in April 2008. It was reviewed by the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners in August 2018, then adopted as a policy in April 2022. The Board is now scheduled to review the policy annually. The current policy is available for the public to view at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/about/policies>, and the full text is below.

Policy – Requesting Exemption from Library District Criteria

Legal Citation

Criteria for a proposed library district are listed in Section 33-2703(5), Idaho Code.

Exemption requests

An applicant requesting exemption must apply on forms provided by the Commission and submit the completed application at least six (6) months prior to the election to be conducted to establish the district.

Factors in Evaluating the Request for Exemption

In reviewing applications for exemption, the following factors will be considered:

- a. Service plan and budget.
 - i. Will the proposed district meet the Commission’s LSTA grant eligibility requirements?
 - ii. Is there an awareness of current trends in library service and the ability to offer new services as the need is identified?
 - iii. Is the proposed budget commensurate with the service plan?
 - iv. Is the district as described likely to be able to sustain a level of library services that is consistent with state plans?
- b. Proposed boundaries, population size, and levy.
 - i. Have the organizers investigated all reasonable alternatives, including those identified by Commission staff?
 - ii. Have the organizers met with neighboring library boards to discuss possible annexation or combination? Have those neighboring boards indicated that they are not interested?
 - iii. Does area history suggest the election is not likely to pass with expanded boundaries?
 - iv. Is the proposal part of a plan to use the proposed district as a steppingstone to a larger district?
- c. Anticipated impact in the event exemption is not granted.
 - i. Will current services significantly decline?

- ii. Will the long-term effects be so negative that library service will be badly damaged in the long run?

Suggested motion: I move that the Board adopt the Requesting Exemption from Library District Criteria policy as outlined in Board Document 23-37.