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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

West Bend, WI, Affirms Library Ouster Setting National Example of Local Control Despite Outside Influence

West Bend, WI, has set a **national example of how local communities can stand up to pressure from outside groups seeking to mislead local citizens**. Even in the face of tremendous pressure from the [American Library Association](#) [ALA], the [National Council Against Censorship](#) [NCAC], and the [University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Information Sciences](#), the town's government has refused to reverse its decision to not reappoint library board members who protected ALA agenda by [refusing to hear the complaint of one of its citizens](#). (To confirm this and more, read [here](#).)

For an example of the kind of tactics used by the pressure groups and why people should realize they are paper tigers, both the ALA and the NCAC have spoken out directly against me, likely because I have been scoring direct hits on them ([example](#)), then both have failed to respond to my legitimate questions/concerns about local control. Both hit and ran. [No response from Deborah Caldwell-Stone of the ALA](#). [No response from the NCAC](#).

What a coincidence, the West Bend library board members were not reappointed precisely because they provided no response to citizen concerns, just like the ALA/NCAC!

Please read, "[West Bend City Council Refuses to Budge on Library Issue](#)," by **West Bend Citizen Advocate**, *WISSUP - Wisconsin Speaks Up*, 18 May 2009, emphasis in original:

The motion to rescind the vote brought forth by Alderman Nick Dobberstein was soundly rejected by the City Council this evening.

Alderman Dobberstein began the request by listing off the attributes of the board members, i.e., attendance at meetings, advocacy [sic], supervision and evaluation of the library director. Asking for questions or discussion from the other aldermen, Dobberstein was met with silence.

Alderman Lindbeck, citing personal reasons, stated he would not be voting this evening and abstained. Dobberstein questioned the abstention, asking the city attorney if this move was only used for those with a conflict of interest. The city attorney affirmed that the choice to abstain may be made for any reason at any time.

Alderman Dobberstein asked to speak further, making a list of other attributes of the four library board members in question. He made mention of their familiarity of intellectual freedom, their experience, their advanced degrees, their diligence and commitment [sic] to reading books that we are currently questioning and the fact that they are just "good people."

Alderman Schlotfeldt made mention directly to Dobberstein of an earlier telephone conversation that he would not reiterate publicly.

Dobberstein asked the City Council members what he could do to get the library board

reinstated. There was no response from the City Council.

The call to question the rescind was brought forward by Alderman Dobberstein.
Seconded by Alderman Kist.

A vote was taken to rescind:

All voted NO, except for Alderman Kist and Alderman Dobberstein.

A firm stand by the leaders of our community who truly know the people they serve.