



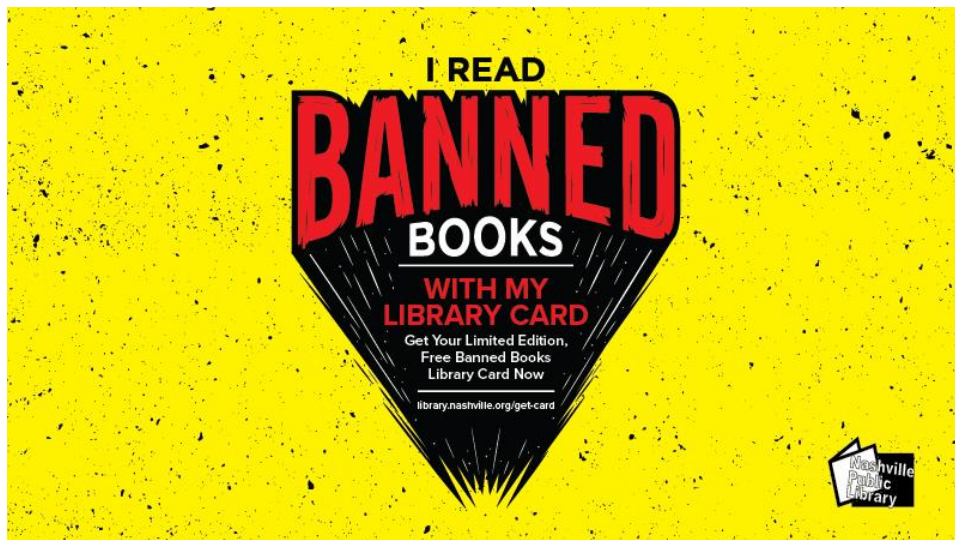
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NPL LAUNCHES "FREEDOM TO READ" CAMPAIGN

Library Sets Goal of 5,000 Library Card Signups in One Month



Design of the limited edition "Banned Books" library card now available at NPL. (Image Courtesy of Nashville Public Library)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Public Library today launched a special campaign dedicated to everyone's Freedom to Read.

The Library released a free, limited edition "Banned Books" library card, setting a goal to get 5,000 cards into the hands of readers across Davidson County. An NPL card is the gateway more than 2 million books and materials, including [books that have been banned and challenged for potential banning in cities across the U.S.](#)

"I want Nashvillians to know: Nashville Public Library will always respect your Freedom to Read — to independently determine what you read, and don't read, and to exercise your role in determining what your children read," said NPL Director Kent Oliver.

“This campaign is our way of bringing our community together in our shared Freedom to Read, which is essential to sustaining our democracy.”

Since the American Library Association began tracking challenges against books in the 1980s, the organization has recorded thousands of challenges made in cities across the U.S.

Most recently, McMinn County Schools in January 2022 removed Art Spiegelman's acclaimed graphic novel “Maus” from the school district's curriculum. Williamson County Schools in February removed Sharon Creech's “Walk Two Moons.”

In contrast, 71% of readers oppose efforts to remove books from their local public libraries, according to an ALA survey of [1,000 voters and 472 parents of public-school children](#). That poll includes Democrats 75 %, Republicans 70% and independent voters 58%.

How The Campaign Works:

- The card is free to all Davidson County residents, and existing card holders can upgrade to the new card at no additional charge.
- Customers can [sign up for their card on the library's website](#) or in-person at [any of NPL's 21 locations](#).

The campaign ends Thursday, May 26.

About Nashville Public Library

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from - plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills - NPL is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: at NPL, books are only half the story.

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