**Thursday, October 22, 2026**

## Wyocena Library Board and Village of Wyocena Board Issue Joint Statement Regarding the Future of the Wyocena Public Library

**WYOCENA, Wis.** — The Wyocena Library Board and the Village of Wyocena Board have jointly announced steps regarding the future operations and planned closure of the Wyocena Public Library at the conclusion of the 2026 calendar year.

Following formal communication from the South Central Library System (SCLS), local officials have voted to initiate a voluntary closure process at the end of the 2026 calendar year, rather than facing forced closure due to ongoing state regulatory non-compliance.

For the past two years, the Wyocena Public Library has fallen out of compliance with SCLS and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regulatory standards—primarily due to the prolonged lack of a qualified, certified Library Director.

Following the resignation of the Library Director on September 17, 2026, SCLS formally transmitted official correspondence on October 8 outlining the library's non-compliant status and presenting potential courses of action. The Library Board placed the matter on its October 12 agenda and invited the Village Board to attend, recognizing that addressing system compliance requires joint decision-making.

During the October 12 joint meeting, leaders evaluated the options presented by SCLS. Operating in continued non-compliance was ruled out as a viable option. SCLS outlined two main paths: agreeing to a voluntary, planned closure (Option 2) or facing forced, involuntary closure and removal from the system due to persistent non-compliance. Given that operating independently outside of SCLS is fiscally impossible under current village and county funding, the Library Board recommended, and the Village Board unanimously approved, pursuing Option 2. This decision allows the Village to manage an orderly transition rather than being forced into an immediate, abrupt shutdown.

"Choosing to voluntarily close our doors allows us to retain control over the transition process for our residents," representatives from both boards stated. "After two years of non-compliance—most notably the inability to maintain a qualified Library Director, forced closure was the inevitable outcome if we took no action. By opting for a voluntary plan, we ensure the library remains open through 2026 to serve the community through the remainder of the current budget cycle."