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March 16, 2015

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PRESS RELEASE

Albany Public Library Budget Vote and Trustee Election May 19

Library Tax to Increase Approximately \$3.71 per Year for \$150,000 Home

Albany, NY—Albany city residents go to the polls Tuesday, May 19, to vote on the Albany Public Library tax levy and choose two new members for the library Board of Trustees.

The proposed 2016 operating tax levy of \$6,567,373 reflects a 1.6 percent increase in the annual total tax levy. If approved, this increase would mean that the owner of a \$150,000 home would pay approximately \$3.71 more next year, or just about a penny a day.

“We worked hard to develop an efficient and effective budget that controls costs and carefully allocates resources across our locations,” said Scott Jarzombek, the library’s executive director. “This modest increase would allow the library to continue to provide valuable services, programs, and resources to the public.”

The 2016 budget plan was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees at its March 10 meeting. The library’s operating budget was flat in 2013 and 2014, so this is the first budget vote since 2012.

The proposed budget will support the increased operating costs required to run seven neighborhood branches. The library provides: free access to a large and diverse collection of books, DVDs, music CDs, audio books, as well as eBooks, eMagazines, and other digital materials; free public computer use, Wi-Fi access, and mobile app; free public programs including children’s story times, computer classes, financial literacy workshops, music performances, book reviews, and lectures; free access to professional reference librarians who provide assistance with information and research needs; and free use of community meeting rooms and study spaces.

Nominating petitions for the two trustee seats are available on the library’s website, and will soon be available at all Albany Public Library branches. The two open trustee positions carry full five-year terms that start on July 1. The library’s nine-member Board of Trustees is charged with making the rules, regulations, and policies under which the seven-location library system operates. The expiring terms are currently held by John Davis and Esther Patterson.

The library vote is held in conjunction with the Albany City School District’s budget vote on May 19. Details about the 2016 library budget and candidates will be made available on the library’s website at www.albanypubliclibrary.org.

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Albany Public Library (APL) educates, entertains, and empowers our community. APL operates seven award-winning branches serving the residents of Albany. Each month, about 75,000 people use the libraries to borrow materials, attend programs, access computers, and research information. More than 90,000 books, DVDs, and other materials are circulated each month. Visit APL online at www.albanypubliclibrary.org. And, look for the free “Albany Public Library Mobile” app for Apple and Android devices.

