



Albany
Public
Library

www.albanypubliclibrary.org

LIBRARY VOTE MAY 17

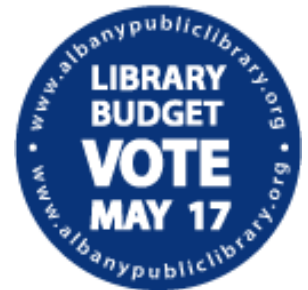
Budget Session & Meet the Candidates Forum | May 2 (Mon) | 6 pm | Washington Ave. Branch

Budget Session & Meet the Candidates Forum | May 5 (Thurs) | 6 pm | Pine Hills Branch

<Videos from these forums will be posted on YouTube. Search for AlbanyNYLibrary.>

2017 LIBRARY BUDGET FACTS

- The proposed 2017 total library tax levy is \$8,504,893 and was unanimously approved by the elected Board of Trustees in March.
 - The **operating tax levy of \$6,652,455 is what will be on the ballot on May 17.**
 - The rest of the total levy is for the Branch Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters in February 2007.
- The 2017 tax levy is an **increase of 1.0 percent** over the current year.
- An Albany resident with a \$150,000 home will **pay about an extra \$2.30 next year** for the library.
- The proposed budget allows the library to **support seven neighborhood branches, and an online eLibrary branch**, at their current levels of service.
- **Three library trustee seats are also up for election.** The four candidates (in ballot order) are:
 - Mitzi Lawrence of Patroon Creek
 - Brenda J. Robinson of Livingston Ave.
 - Matthew M. Finn of Jay St.
 - Karen Strong of Chestnut St.
- Polls are open Tuesday, May 17, from 7 am until 9 pm
- More information about the budget vote and trustee election is on www.albanypubliclibrary.org (click on *Quick Links* at the top of any page)



LIBRARY SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE TAX LEVY

- Free access to a **large and diverse collection of books and DVDs, audiobooks and music CDs, eBooks and eMagazines**, as well as **databases, museum passes, and even fishing poles**
 - 3,000 books and other items are borrowed every day we are open
- Free public **computer use and Wi-Fi access** at all locations, plus a **mobile app** for devices
 - Wi-Fi is used 1,600 times, and public computers 350 times, every day
- Free **educational and entertainment programs for all ages and interests**, including: story times, computer classes, financial workshops, music performances, book reviews, movies, tax assistance, arts and maker activities, and health and wellness classes
 - More than 17,000 people visit our branches, and we host more than 80 programs, each week
- Free access to **professional librarians who provide personal assistance** with information and research needs, as well as book suggestions, how to download library items to devices, and much more
- Free use of **community meeting rooms and study spaces**
- Free **24/7 online access** to the collections and databases of all 29 libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System, which covers Albany and Rensselaer counties

Updated May 1, 2016

LIBRARY VOTE FAQ

What is the Albany Public Library vote on?

The actual ballot language will be listed in the voting machine as follows:

Shall the sum of \$6,652,455 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the City School District of Albany for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Albany Public Library?

Yes_____ No_____

The ballot will also contain an election to fill three seats on the Library Board of Trustees. The candidates (in ballot order) are: (1) Mitzi Lawrence of Patroon Creek, (2) Brenda J. Robinson of Livingston Ave., (3) Matthew M. Finn of Jay St., and (4) Karen Strong of Chestnut St.

When is the vote?

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 7 am to 9 pm in conjunction with the City School District of Albany budget vote.

Why is my polling place in a different location than the general election polling place?

Polling places for the school and library budget votes are different than the polling locations used for citywide elections. The polling places are determined by the school district. The last page of this packet lists polling places by ward. A street-by-street directory is online at: www.albanyschools.org/Budget/Wheretovote.html

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone registered to vote in the city of Albany general election is eligible to vote in the library election.

Will people be allowed to vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, people can vote by absentee ballot. Information is available through a link on the school district website.

How many votes are needed for the passage of the library tax levy proposal?

A majority of those cast in the election.

How much is the proposed library tax levy increase?

The library is proposing an increase in its total tax levy of one percent. If approved, this would result in an increase in library tax of about \$2.30 for a home with an assessed value of \$150,000. The estimated home-stead tax rate for 2017 will be \$1.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Does STAR apply to the library tax?

No, STAR does not apply to the library tax.

How will the library tax dollars be used?

The tax levy will be used to support the 2017 annual operating costs of the library, including maintenance of the collections, staff salaries and benefits, and operation and maintenance of our seven branches.

What other sources of income does the library have?

The 2017 budget includes supplemental income from state and federal grants, fines and other fees, and contributions from foundations and individuals. The majority of support for the library comes from the tax levy.

Why can't you just charge a fee to anyone who uses the library?

It is against the NYS Education Law, which requires that public library service must be "forever free."

What will happen if the voters do not approve the tax levy increase?

If the tax levy increase is not passed, the library would operate with the same funding level as this year.

CANDIDATES FOR ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Four Albany residents are running for the three available seats on the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. Voters will select up to three candidates.

The four candidates, listed in ballot order, are:

- (1) **Mitzi Lawrence**
- (2) **Brenda J. Robinson**
- (3) **Matthew M. Finn**
- (4) **Karen Strong**

All candidate information was provided—and written—by the candidates.

(1) **Mitzi Lawrence**

255 Patroon Creek, 12206



Occupation/Special Skills: Retired Library Media Specialist & Curriculum Leader for Libraries K-12 for Troy School District; additionally technology troubleshooter.

Biography: A native of Charleston, SC Mitzi arrived in Capital Region in 1971. Her undergraduate degree is from Hunter College in NYC and a Masters in Library Science from University at Albany. An avid reader, her involvement with libraries began as a patron then employment with the Brooklyn Public Library. She was a member on the Questar School Libraries Advisory Board. She has served as president and member of

the board of Black Dimensions in Art.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I am running for the library board to expand my involvement with libraries in the community in which I reside. Public libraries are so relevant to the city and I feel that my background in the library profession could be an asset to Albany Public Library in its future endeavors.

(2) **Brenda J. Robinson**

266 Livingston Avenue, 12210



Occupation/Special Skills: I am a Registered Nurse Consultant for Veteran Health Administration; CEO, Black Nurses Coalition, INC., and serve as Human Rights Commissioner for Albany.

Biography: I have served our Veterans for over 21 years. I hold a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Nursing and Informatics. I have completed my Doctoral Dissertation in Nursing. I manage a VA diversity program. As the Human Rights Commissioner, I advocate for the elimination of racism and discrimination and celebrate diversity. I provide

free health screenings and teaching in the community through BNC. I am a strong advocate for health, education, human rights and community.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I am running for library board to serve the community. Our libraries have become the hub in neighborhoods. I support community engagement and advocacy, which identifies need and program effectiveness; as well as informed decision making. APL provides many needed services. Supporting our library and the community is my goal.

(3) Matthew M. Finn

144 Jay Street, 12210



Occupation/Special Skills: A teacher of English as a New Language in Capital District public schools through Capital Region BOCES.

Biography: Matthew began working at a public library in 1982 and knew immediately he wanted to devote his life to libraries and learning. He earned his Master of Science in Library and Information Science at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, where he won the prestigious Sylvia B. Mechanic Award for Excellence in Business Librarianship. He holds a Master of Education degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Long Island University and a Public Librarian's Certificate.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: In the great tradition of inquiry that suffuses library history, Matthew poses the following questions:

- How can libraries best serve our refugee and new American populations?
- What kinds of partnerships between public librarians and public school teachers could enrich programming?
- How can new community collaborations expand the library's reach?

(4) Karen Strong

162 Chestnut Street, 12210



Occupation/Special Skills: I am a program coordinator for an environmental research and outreach program at Cornell University. I have experience in goal setting, budgeting, and messaging.

Biography: I got my first Albany Public Library card when I moved to Center Square as a college student. Twenty years later, I live in the same neighborhood with my husband and children. I have 13 years of volunteer and non-profit board experience; first on the board of my neighborhood association (2003-2009), then on Albany 2030

(2008-2011), and most recently on the Children's Place at the Plaza board (2009-2016), a non-profit early childhood center.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I am running for Albany Public Library trustee because I believe strong libraries build strong communities. I want to use my passion and experience to ensure Albany's libraries continue to serve everybody in a way that is socially equitable, environmentally sound, and economically feasible.



*Watch the library's community report and
videos from the candidate forums at*

AlbanyNYLibrary

Tax Impact of Proposed 2017 Budget

Home Property Assessed Value	2016 Tax Rate: \$1.53001 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	% Increase	2017 Tax Rate: \$1.54531 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Total \$ Increase
\$100K	\$153.00	1%	\$154.53	\$1.53
\$125K	\$191.25	1%	\$193.16	\$1.91
\$150K	\$229.50	1%	\$231.80	\$2.30
\$175K	\$267.75	1%	\$270.43	\$2.68
\$200K	\$306.00	1%	\$309.06	\$3.06
\$225k	\$344.25	1%	\$347.69	\$3.44
\$250K	\$382.50	1%	\$386.33	\$3.83
\$275K	\$420.75	1%	\$424.96	\$4.21
\$300K	\$459.00	1%	\$463.59	\$4.59
\$325K	\$497.25	1%	\$502.23	\$4.97
\$350K	\$535.50	1%	\$540.86	\$5.36
\$375K	\$573.75	1%	\$579.49	\$5.74
\$400K	\$612.00	1%	\$618.12	\$6.12
\$425K	\$650.25	1%	\$656.76	\$6.50
\$450K	\$688.50	1%	\$695.39	\$6.89
\$475K	\$726.75	1%	\$734.02	\$7.27
\$500K	\$765.01	1%	\$772.66	\$7.65



Albany Public Library

www.albanypubliclibrary.org

VOTING LOCATIONS FOR MAY 17 ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY VOTE

(The library vote is held at the same time as the school district vote)

REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 17
7 am to 9 pm

Questions about where to vote?

Contact City School District of Albany at 475-6010
www.albanyschools.org/Budget/Wheretovote.html

1st WARD: Districts 1-9

City Parks & Recreation Building
7 Hoffman Ave.

7th WARD: Districts 1-5

Delaware Community School
43 Bertha St.

11th WARD: Districts 1-10

Albany High School
700 Washington Ave.

2nd WARD: Districts 1-11

Giffen Memorial Elementary School
274 South Pearl St.

7th WARD: Districts 6-9

Hackett Middle School
45 Delaware Ave.

12th WARD: Districts 1-3

Teresian House
200 Washington Ave. Extension

3rd WARD: Districts 1-9

Sheridan Preparatory Academy
400 Sheridan Ave.

8th WARD: Districts 1-4

Mater Christi School
35 Hurst Ave.

12th WARD: Districts 4-8

Montessori Magnet School
45 Tremont St.

4th WARD: Districts 1-8

North Albany Academy
570 North Pearl St.

8th WARD: Districts 5-9

Albany School of Humanities
108 Whitehall Rd.

13th WARD: Districts 1-7

Pine Hills Elementary School
41 North Allen St.

5th WARD: Districts 1-7

Arbor Hill/West Hill Branch Library
148 Henry Johnson Blvd.

9th WARD: Districts 1-9

New Scotland Elementary School
369 New Scotland Ave.

14th WARD: Districts 1-8

Mater Christi School
35 Hurst Ave.

6th WARD: Districts 1-8

Hackett Middle School
45 Delaware Ave.

10th WARD: Districts 1-8

Pine Hills Elementary School
41 North Allen St.

15th WARD: Districts 1-8

Eagle Point Elementary School
1044 Western Ave.



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