LIBRARY VOTE MAY 16

Albany Public Library
www.albanypubliclibrary.org

Budget Session & Meet the Candidates Forum | May 1 (Mon) | 6:30 pm | Washington Ave. Branch

Budget Session & Meet the Candidates Forum | May 4 (Thurs) | 6 :30pm | Pine Hills Branch

2018 LIBRARY BUDGET FACTS

- The proposed 2018 total library tax levy is $8,632,466 and was approved by the elected Board of Trustees in March.
  - The **operating tax levy of $6,981,873 is what will be on the ballot on May 16**.
  - The rest of the total tax levy is for the Branch Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters in February 2007.
- The 2018 tax levy is an **increase of 1.5 percent** over the current year.
- An Albany resident with a $150,000 home will **pay about an extra $3.49 next year** for the library.
- The proposed budget allows the library to **support seven neighborhood branches** at their current levels of service & respond to patron requests for more programming, outreach & meeting room availability.
- **Three library trustee seats are also up for election**. Candidates, in ballot order: (1) Brenda Robinson of Livingston Ave., (2) Arlene Way of Second St., (3) Sarah Shearer of Prospect Terr., (4) DTraecelle Carter of Hudson Ave., and (5) Jenna Pitera of Irving St.
- Polls are open Tuesday, May 16, from 7 am until 9 pm

Library Budget Vote May 16

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**
  - 2,300 books and other items are borrowed every day we are open
- Free public **computers, laptops, and WiFi access** at all locations, plus a **mobile app** for devices and **WiFi hotspots** for in-home use
  - WiFi is used 1,400 times, and public computers 450 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, science and technology programs, and health and wellness classes
  - More than 16,000 people visit our branches, and we host more than 120 programs and meetings, 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** for local organizations and individuals
- 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

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 $6,981,873 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) Brenda Robinson of Livingston Ave., (2) Arlene Way of Second St., (3) Sarah Shearer of Prospect Terr., (4) DTraecelle Carter of Hudson Ave., and (5) Jenna Pitera of Irving St.

When is the vote?
The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 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 tax levy of 1.5 percent. If approved, this would result in an increase in library tax of about $3.49 for a home with an assessed value of $150,000. The estimated homestead tax rate for 2018 will be $1.57 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 seven neighborhood branches at their current levels of service and respond to patron requests for more programming, outreach, and meeting room availability.

What other sources of income does the library have?
The 2018 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

Five Albany residents are running for the three available seats on the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees.

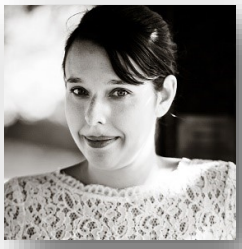
BRENDA ROBINSON

ARLENE WAY

SARAH SHEARER

DTRAECELLE CARTER

JENNA PITERA



All information was provided by the candidates and published without edits.

The candidates are listed in ballot order, which was randomly selected.

(1) Brenda J. Robinson

266 Livingston Avenue, 12210

Occupation/Special Skills: Dr. Brenda Robinson is on APL Library Board for past year, RN serving the Veteran Health Administration, CEO of the Black Nurses Coalition, Albany Human Rights Commissioner

Biography: I serve on several community organization and committees. I have been a dedicated APL Board Trustee! I have contributed to the fiscally responsible attitude of the APL. I have proudly served our Veterans for over 22 years. As CEO of the Black Nurses Coalition, I provide free health screening to our community. As Human Rights Commissioner for Albany, I promote fairness and equality. I'm a strong advocate for the residents of Albany. READ, LEAD, SUCCEED!

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I bring a diverse flare, experience and a community connection to the APL board. "KEEPING THE LIBRARY PRIMARY": my goal because libraries are a valuable asset in communities. During my 1st year on the APL board, I have learned a lot; such as "bonding" which saved tax payers $200,000!

(2) Arlene C. Way

17 Second Street, 12210

Occupation/Special Skills: Education and Community Development Pipeline Initiatives: education and workforce development programs; cross-sector collaboration; legislative advocacy; strategic planning; meeting facilitation; team building; and, fund development

Biography: Executive Director of the Arbor Hill Development Corporation. Former Program Officer with New York State Education Department, Office of Higher Education. Current Trustee with the Albany Public Library System, Upper Hudson Library System, and member of the NYS Board of Regents Advisory Council for Libraries. Trustee with the NYS Nurses Foundation, Albany County Historical Association; member of Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations (CANA); Albany Promise; NAACP; and, the Metropolitan NTM Baptist Church Choir.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I am running for re-election to the Albany Public Library System because I believe in its mission and want to contribute to APLS's advancement. If elected, I will work to cultivate cross-sector collaborations, policies, and resources that generate support and promote equity and excellence for all branches.

(3) Sarah A. Shearer

14 Prospect Terrace, 12208

Occupation/Special Skills: I am an attorney with the NYS Assembly and maintain a small private practice. My law degree is concentrated in governmental administration & regulation.

Biography: As a local attorney and 10 year resident of Albany, Sarah has worked to become an active volunteer in her community. From her leadership role on her local neighborhood association to her management of a local not-for-profit organization, Sarah has demonstrated her willingness to go the extra mile in order to serve the residents of her community. Sarah received her bachelor's degree from the University at Albany and law degree from Albany Law School.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: Living in the age of information, it is crucial that all people continue to have access to all publicly available information. I am running in order to:

- Expand programming offered;
- Raise awareness about services offered; and
- Provide expanding programming while working responsibly within the library's resources.

(4) DTraecelle Carter

275 Hudson Avenue, 12210

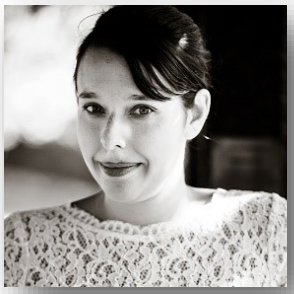
Occupation/Special Skills: I am Director of Outreach for NY State of Health, The Health Plan Marketplace. I have experience in project management, marketing, and brand awareness.

Biography: I studied Marketing & Management at Siena College. I lived and taught conversational English in Japan. After returning to Albany, I worked at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. As an Economic Development Specialist, I promoted the agriculture industry throughout the State. In my current role as Director of Outreach at NY State of Health, I focus on areas with low insurance enrollment rates and educate low income New Yorkers about affordable healthcare options.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I want to ensure Albany's communities are empowered by the many resources available through our robust library system. Albany libraries provide opportunities for basic learning and continued education, pillars of community growth and enlightenment. My goal is to make certain our friends and families benefit from these assets.

(5) Jenna Pitera

43 Irving Street, 12202



Occupation/Special Skills: Jenna Pitera is an instructional designer and librarian. She works in continuing education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She's focused her career on information literacy instruction.

Biography: Jenna Pitera began her love affair with Albany libraries at age five, when she received her first library card. After completing her master's in Library and Information Sciences, she worked as a public technology librarian in Boston libraries focusing on increasing technology access and fluency for patrons. She was named an Emerging Leader by the American Library Association in 2011. She lives with her husband and two children in the Hudson Park Neighborhood.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: "As a parent and Hudson Park resident, I have a vested interest in bolstering public libraries in the current political climate. Libraries are at the front lines, helping people understand truth and information. Libraries are a lifeline to this community and I want to work as an advocate for them."

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

AlbanyNYLibrary

Albany Public Library

www.albanypubliclibrary.org

Vote on 2018 tax levy for library operations is Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

	2017 Budget Approved	2018 Budget Proposed
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Tax Levy - Library Operations	6,652,455	6,981,873
Tax Levy - Branch Improvement Plan	1,852,438	1,650,594
TOTAL TAX LEVY	8,504,893	8,632,466
OTHER REVENUE		
NYS Grants	187,150	214,000
Federal Grants	38,000	38,000
Other Grants /Construction Grant	25,000	0
Fines and Fees	130,213	140,000
Interest Income	10,000	20,000
Foundation Contribution	20,000	25,000
Miscellaneous	16,500	5,000
Subtotal Other Revenue	426,863	442,000
Total Fund Balance Used	382,849	288,990
TOTAL Other Revenue	809,711	730,990
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	9,314,605	9,363,456
EXPENDITURES		
PAYROLL AND RELATED COSTS		
Salaries	3,630,971	3,945,995
NYS Retirement System	496,709	486,067
Payroll Processing & Unemployment Insurance	299,054	318,494
Health Insurance	867,433	956,306
TOTAL	5,294,167	5,706,862
OCCUPANCY COSTS		
Rent	20,000	20,000
Utilities & Telephone	215,000	180,000
Maintenance/Repairs/Supplies	350,000	310,000
Security	5,000	20,000
Miscellaneous/ Grant Expense (Construction)	35,000	17,500
Furniture/Building Improvements.	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	675,000	597,500
MATERIALS and SERVICES		
Books, Periodicals, Magazines	610,000	610,000
On-line Services	45,000	45,000
TOTAL	655,000	655,000
ADMINISTRATIVE and MISC.		
Office & Library Supplies	60,000	60,000
Postage	8,000	5,000
Publicity, Printing	45,000	35,000
Training/Travel/Community Activities	25,000	25,500
Professional Services	185,000	185,000
Programming Activities	60,000	68,000
Insurance	70,000	65,000
TOTAL	453,000	443,500
AUTOMATION		
Automation Services	240,000	195,000
Automation Software	15,000	15,000
Automation Hardware	130,000	100,000
TOTAL	385,000	310,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - LIBRARY OPERATIONS	7,462,167	7,712,862
DEBT SERVICE		
Total Debt Service Payment on Branch Improvement Plan	1,852,438	1,650,594
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,314,605	9,363,456

Tax Impact of Proposed 2018 Library Budget

Home Property Assessed Value	2017 Tax Rate (Homestead): $1.552897 per $1,000 Assessed Value	% Increase	2018 Projected Tax Rate: (Homestead): $1.5762 per $1,000 Assessed Value	Total $ Increase
$100K	$155.28	1.5%	$157.62	$2.33
$125K	$194.11	1.5%	$197.03	$2.91
$150K	$232.93	1.5%	$236.43	$3.49
$175K	$271.75	1.5%	$275.84	$4.07
$200K	$310.57	1.5%	$315.24	$4.66
$225K	$349.40	1.5%	$354.65	$5.24
$250K	$388.22	1.5%	$394.05	$5.82
$275K	$427.04	1.5%	$433.46	$6.40
$300K	$465.86	1.5%	$472.86	$6.99
$325K	$504.69	1.5%	$512.27	$7.57
$350K	$543.51	1.5%	$551.67	$8.15
$375K	$582.33	1.5%	$591.08	$8.73
$400K	$621.15	1.5%	$630.48	$9.32
$425K	$659.98	1.5%	$669.89	$9.90
$450K	$698.80	1.5%	$709.29	$10.48
$475K	$737.62	1.5%	$748.70	$11.06
$500K	$776.44	1.5%	$788.10	$11.65

VOTING LOCATIONS FOR MAY 16 ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY VOTE

❮ The library vote is held at the same time as the school district vote ❯

REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 16 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 1-10 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 1-10 Giffen Memorial Elementary School 274 South Pearl St.	**7th WARD: Districts 6-8** Hackett Middle School 45 Delaware Ave.	**12th WARD: Districts 1-3** Teresian House 200 Washington Ave. Extension
3rd WARD: Districts 1-10 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 1-6 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 1-9** Mater Christi School 35 Hurst Ave.
6th WARD: Districts 1-8 Hackett Middle School 45 Delaware Ave.	**10th WARD: Districts 1-9** Pine Hills Elementary School 41 North Allen St.	**15th WARD: Districts 1-7** Eagle Point Elementary School 1044 Western Ave.

Library Budget Vote May 16