



Albany
Public
Library

www.albanypubliclibrary.org

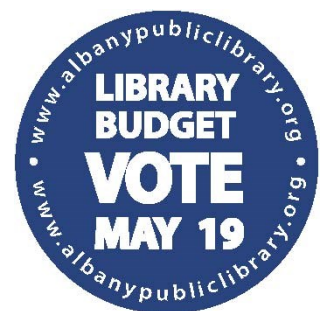
LIBRARY VOTE MAY 19

For more information, please attend a **LIBRARY BUDGET SESSION & CANDIDATE FORUM**:

- ✓ **May 4 (Mon) at 6:30 pm — Washington Ave. Branch**
- ✓ **May 11 (Mon) at 6:30 pm — Pine Hills Branch**

2016 LIBRARY BUDGET FACTS

- The proposed 2016 total library tax levy is \$8,420,686 and was unanimously approved by the elected Board of Trustees in March.
 - The **operating tax levy of \$6,567,373 is what will be on the ballot on May 19.**
 - The rest of the total levy is for the Branch Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters in February 2007.
- The 2016 tax levy is an **increase of 1.6 percent** over the current year.
 - This is the **first time the budget has increased in three years**, as 2014 and 2015 had flat spending plans.
 - The library is **holding tight on expenses** wherever possible and keeping budget lines the same, or lower, than in 2015.
 - The additional funds will help the library cover rising health insurance costs.
- The tax levy **falls within the tax cap formula** as directed by the NYS Comptroller.
- An Albany resident with a \$150,000 home will **pay about an extra \$3.71 next year** for the library.
 - The increase equals about 7 cents a week.
 - The estimated homestead tax rate for 2016 is \$1.57 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- The proposed budget allows the library to **support seven neighborhood branches, and an online eLibrary branch**, at their current levels of service.
- **Two library trustee seats are also up for election.** The three candidates (in ballot order) are:
 - Elissa Kane of Cuyler Avenue (12209)
 - Michael Nepl of Elk Street (12207)
 - Lesley Paporone of Washington Avenue (12206)
- Polls are open Tuesday, May 19, from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m.
- For library vote updates, please visit the library's website: www.albanypubliclibrary.org
- For information on where to vote, please visit the school district's website: www.albanyschools.org



LIBRARY SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE TAX LEVY

- Free access to a **large and diverse collection of books and DVDs, audio books and music CDs, eBooks and eMagazines**, as well as **databases, museum passes, and even fishing poles**
 - 3,200 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 1,300 times, and public computers 500 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 50 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

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 \$6,567,373 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 two seats on the Library Board of Trustees. The candidates (in ballot order) are: (1) Elissa Kane of Cuyler Avenue, (2) Michael Neppl of Elk Street, and (3) Lesley Paparone of Washington Avenue.

When is the vote?

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. 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. Please visit the school district website for polling locations: www.albanyschools.org

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: www.albanyschools.org

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 1.6 percent, which is under the NYS property tax cap. If approved, this would result in an increase in library tax of about \$3.71 for a home with an assessed value of \$150,000. The estimated homestead tax rate for 2016 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 the 2016 annual operating costs of the library, including the maintenance of the collections, staff salaries and benefits, and the operation and maintenance of our seven branches.

What other sources of income does the library have?

The 2016 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.

Why should I support the library if I don't use it?

We strongly encourage all residents to take advantage of all that the library has to offer. A public library improves the value of the community as a whole.

- Libraries keep kids learning and occupied in constructive activities
- Libraries help seniors stay engaged in their community
- Libraries give families a neighborhood place to enjoy learning and playing together
- Libraries provide a digital safety net for those who lack resources at home
- Libraries help people find jobs and advance their careers
- Libraries are economic development engines for businesses in their neighborhoods
- Libraries attract people to the community and stabilize property values
- Libraries enhance the quality of life for all our residents

CANDIDATES FOR ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Three Albany residents are running for the two available seats on the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. Voters will select up to two candidates, whose terms will begin on July 1, 2015.

The three candidates, listed in ballot order, are:

- 1. Elissa Kane**
- 2. Michael Neppi**
- 3. Lesley Paparone**

Candidate profiles are on the following page.

1. Elissa Kane

27 Cuyler Avenue, 12209



Occupation/Special Skills: I'm currently the Interim Executive Director of the Dudley Observatory @ miSci in addition to providing facilitation services to area groups and organizations. I serve on the Board of the Capital Region Library Council and was the Director of Development at the Albany Public Library during its period of branch expansion. I'm a passionate library user and believe libraries serve as the "third" place in community life - the destination for connection, information and civility. In joining the team of library trustees I anticipate supporting the staff, library foundation and community to maximize public funding, nurture partnerships, and leverage new resources.

Biography: For over 20 years, my wife Lynne Lekakis and I have lived, gardened, and volunteered in the Delaware Avenue neighborhood, raising our daughter and caring for family and friends.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I'm running for Library Trustee because the public libraries in the city of Albany are critical infrastructure for the vibrancy of our city and the wellbeing of our neighbors. At this special time in our city's history, I'm eager to offer my time, attention and expertise to helping the Albany Public Library exuberantly fulfill its mission to educate, empower and entertain.

2. Michael Neppi

21 Elk Street #401, 12207



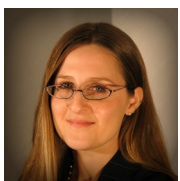
Occupation/Special Skills: I currently serve as General Counsel & Director of Advocacy for the New York Library Associatin. I am a licensed attorney in New York State.

Biography: A nearly 15 year resident of Albany, I am the primary advocate for library issues at the state level. During the past two years, I have secured more than \$180M in library funding, including \$25M in funding for local library construction projects. Previously, I served as a state Assistant Attorney General for AG Eric Schneiderman, and as an attorney in the state Senate and Governor's office. I graduated from Albany Law School and SUNY Albany.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: Quality library services are at the core of a healthy, vibrant community. As a member of Albany Public Library's Board of Trustees, I will use my extensive experience in library advocacy to ensure all of our neighborhoods possess libraries responsive to their unique needs, and expand access for all.

3. Lesley Paparone

835 Washington Avenue, 12206



Occupation/Special Skills: I work for the Department of Labor, currently in communications and previously as the legislative liaison. I help develop and clearly articulate information, policy and procedure.

Biography: I came to Albany in 2000 and earned a bachelor's in Secondary English Education and master's in English Literature from the College of Saint Rose. I loved the capital region so much that I stayed. I bought a house in the heart of Albany three years ago and have been seeking ways to use my time and talents to benefit my community ever since. I'm active in my neighborhood association and other community groups.

Why I am Running for the Library Board: I'm committed to Albany's success as a community. APL is integral to that success. The library provides essential services to inner city youth and lower income families, and vital community connection to seniors. I want to invest my energy in protecting and expanding APL's already fantastic programs and services.

PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET -- VOTE MAY 19, 2015

	2015	2016	Comments
	Approved	Proposed	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Tax Levy - Library Operations	6,434,764	6,567,373	Library operations tax levy on ballot 5/19/15
Tax Levy - Branch Improvement Plan	1,853,313	1,853,313	
TOTAL TAX LEVY	8,288,077	8,420,686	1.6% increase calculated using property tax cap guidelines
OTHER REVENUE			
NYS Grants	197,000	187,150	Decrease in NYS grants
Federal Grants	38,000	38,000	
Other Grants /Construction Grant	26,250	25,000	
Fines and Fees	170,000	126,000	Decrease in fines & fees
Interest Income	5,000	10,000	
Foundation Contribution	10,000	20,000	Ask for higher contribution
Book Sales		5,000	
DASNY Reimbursement		-	
Copier and Printers Fees	45,000	15,000	
Subtotal Other Revenue	491,250	426,150	
Total Fund Balance Used	759,732	401,467	
TOTAL Other Revenue	1,250,982	827,617	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	9,539,059	9,248,303	
EXPENDITURES			
PAYROLL AND RELATED COSTS			
Salaries	3,409,678	3,440,678	
NYS Retirement System	545,548	529,714	
Payroll Processing & Unemployment Insurance	282,563	283,466	
Health Insurance	721,557	898,799	Increase for 2016 + carryover increase from 2015
TOTAL	4,959,346	5,152,657	
OCCUPANCY COSTS			
Rent	20,000	20,000	
Utilities & Telephone	258,000	258,000	
Maintenance/repairs/supplies	460,000	375,000	
Security	88,400	0	Bring in-house in 2016
Miscellaneous/ Grant Expense (Construction)	35,000	33,333	
Furniture/Building Improvements.	250,000	75,000	
TOTAL	1,111,400	761,333	
MATERIALS and SERVICES			
Books, Periodicals, Magazines	650,000	610,000	
On-line Services	65,000	45,000	
TOTAL	715,000	655,000	
ADMINISTRATIVE and MISC.			
Office & Library Supplies	70,000	50,000	
Postage	20,000	6,000	
Publicity, Printing	55,000	50,000	
Training and Travel & Community Activities	30,000	30,000	
Professional Services	200,000	175,000	
Programming Activities	70,000	60,000	
Insurance	90,000	70,000	
TOTAL	535,000	441,000	
AUTOMATION			
Automation Services	240,000	240,000	
Automation Software	15,000	15,000	
Automation Hardware	110,000	130,000	
TOTAL	365,000	385,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - LIBRARY OPERATIONS	7,685,746	7,394,990	
DEBT SERVICE			
Total Debt Service Payment on Branch Improvement Plan	1,853,313	1,853,313	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,539,059	9,248,303	

NOTE: Library operations budget was flat in 2013 & 2014. This is the first budget vote since 2012.