

# Library Trustee Election May 21



Albany  
Public  
Library

www.albanypubliclibrary.org

Four Albany residents are running for three available seats on the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. The vote is Tuesday, May 21, from 7 am to 9 pm at City School District of Albany polling places.

The library candidates, listed in ballot order, are:

1. **Lori Kochanski**
2. **Thomas McCarthy, Jr.**
3. **Sara Dallas**
4. **Arlene Way**

*All candidate information was provided—and written—by the candidates. The statements are unedited.*



## LORI KOCHANSKI

Ten Eyck Ave.

### Occupation & Special Skills

I am an artist at the Albany Barn, Lutheran Pastor and Spiritual Director. I am guided by the principles of equity, wonder

and community.

### Biography

I have done significant work in helping communities to be honest about who they are so they can develop personal and corporate strategic plans that are true and attainable. In every call, both paid and volunteer, I am rooted in compassion for community and neighbor justice. I show up, pay attention and act in ways that ensure the needs of the community are balanced with the reality of the resources available to serve those needs.

### Why are you running for the library board?

The library was the first place I felt hospitality, welcome and connection when I moved to Albany. I am committed to keeping a balance of services that fulfills fiduciary responsibilities while challenging us to be relevant, proactive and attentive to the changing needs of the constituents.



## THOMAS MCCARTHY, JR.

Colonial Ave.

### Occupation & Special Skills

I currently work for a New York State Assemblymember, where I serve as legislative staff. In 2018, I had the opportunity to work on statewide library policy and funding with the Assembly's Library Committee. From this experience, I possess an understanding of library policy that will be useful as trustee, as well as experience in communications and strong teamwork skills.

### Biography

I am a lifelong resident of the City of Albany and graduate of Albany High School, Class of 2013. I earned a B.A. in Economics from Manhattan College, and now work for the New York State Assembly. My experience growing, learning, and living in Albany has helped me gain perspective about the shared needs of our community and our library.

### Why are you running for the library board?

I am running for library board because I want to make a positive contribution to the community that I grew up in and join the outstanding work Albany Public Library is already doing as a modern library in a diverse community. As trustee, I will offer a mindset that views Albany Public Library as an agent of change for the empowerment of individuals and the community.



## SARA DALLAS

Terrace Ave.

### Occupation & Special Skills

Sara is Director of the Southern Adirondack Library System. She has facilitated library planning, trustee training, and advocates

for libraries locally, state-wide and nationally.

### Biography

Sara works with library staff and trustees in public libraries. She helps them identify relevant and needed library services using community based planning, assists in obtaining sustainable funding streams, encourages them to embrace new technology to provide library services and materials, and continuously develops partnerships within the region.

She also serves in a leadership position in the American Library Association and the New York Library Association.

She lives and raised her family in Albany, NY.

### Why are you running for the library board?

I know the importance of having accessible sustainable library services in Albany. I have the skill sets, experience and knowledge to help the Albany Public Library (APL) continue to provide outstanding service to its community. I will be an advocate for the library to ensure the library continues to flourish.



## ARLENE WAY

Second St.

### Occupation & Special Skills

Education/Community Development. Listening; community engagement; strategic visioning & planning; organizational

assessment; program development; cross-sector collaborations; government relations.

### Biography

I am the Executive Director of the Arbor Hill Development Corporation, a Neighborhood Preservation Company. Former Program Officer with NYS Education Department, K-16 Initiatives & Access Programs. Experience with Libraries: Albany Library System Trustee; NYS Board of Regents Advisory Council for Libraries; Upper Hudson Library System. Affiliations: Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations; Albany City School District: Advisory-Arbor Hill Elementary School; Albany NAACP; Senior Hope; Metropolitan NTM Baptist Church Music & Scholarship Ministries.

### Why are you running for the library board?

Albany's neighborhood libraries provide opportunity for enjoyment and personal growth at every stage of life, without regard to age or economic status. The diversity of its collections and responsiveness to community interests must be protected. If elected, I will join with others to develop resources through collaborative partnerships.



Watch videos from the meet-the-candidate forum and library community report at

***AlbanyNYLibrary***

**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**Tuesday, MAY 21**

**7 am to 9 pm**

Questions about WHERE TO VOTE?

Contact City School District of Albany at (518) 475-6010

[www.albanyschools.org/Budget/Wheretovote.html](http://www.albanyschools.org/Budget/Wheretovote.html)