

# BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION

# MAY 17

## 2022-23 LIBRARY BUDGET FACTS

- The proposed 2022-23 total library tax levy is \$9,026,064 and was unanimously approved by the elected Board of Trustees in March.
  - The **operating tax levy of \$7,372,420 is what will be on the ballot on Tuesday, May 17.**
  - The rest of the total tax levy is for the Branch Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters in February 2007.
- The 2022-23 operating tax levy is an **increase of 2.5%** over the current year.
  - This is **under the NYS tax cap.**
  - And, it is the **first time since 2018 that the library is requesting a tax increase.**
- An Albany resident with a \$150,000 home will **pay about an extra \$5.98 next year** for the library.
- The proposed modest budget increase, coupled with more use of the fund balance, would **enable the library to continue current services and operations.**
- There are **10 candidates for four trustee seats** on the library board.
- **Polls are open Tuesday, May 17, from 7 am until 9 pm.**



## 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.**
- Free public **computers, laptops, and WiFi access** at all library branches and outdoor spaces, plus three city parks and several Albany Housing Authority locations. Also, a **mobile app** for devices and **WiFi hotspots** for in-home use.
- Free **educational and entertainment programs for all ages and interests — in person and virtual —** including: story times, computer classes, financial workshops, music performances, book reviews, movies, tax assistance, arts and crafts activities, science and technology programs, and health and wellness classes.
- 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 library budget is proposition #4 on the ballot. Here is the actual ballot language:

*Shall the sum of \$7,372,420 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

### When is the vote?

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 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 and can be found at [albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information](https://albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information).

### 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 the school district at [albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information](https://albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information).

### 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 operating tax levy of 2.5%. If approved, this would result in an increase in the library tax of about \$5.98 for a home with an assessed value of \$150,000. The estimated home-  
stead tax rate for 2022-23 will be \$1.63 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?

Because the library has not increased its budget in four years, the funds would enable the library to deal with rising costs and continue current services and operations.

### What other sources of income does the library have?

The 2022-23 budget includes supplemental income from state and federal grants, fees and rental income, plus 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 fails, the library would operate with the same funding level as this year.

	2021-22 Budget Approved	2022-23 Budget Proposed
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
<b>Tax Levy - Library Operations</b>	<b>\$7,153,022</b>	<b>\$7,372,420</b>
Tax Levy - Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,652,894	\$1,653,644
<b><u>TOTAL TAX LEVY</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,805,916</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,026,064</u></b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
PILOT Payment	\$450,000	\$480,000
NYS Grants	\$228,961	\$238,600
Federal Grants	\$35,000	\$35,000
Other Grants/Construction Grant	\$45,000	\$0
Fees and Sales	\$14,000	\$15,000
Interest Income	\$60,000	\$25,000
Rent Income	\$51,290	\$58,575
<b><u>SUBTOTAL OTHER REVENUE</u></b>	<b><u>\$884,251</u></b>	<b><u>\$852,175</u></b>
<b>Total Fund Balance Used</b>	<b>\$355,279</b>	<b>\$505,215</b>
<b><u>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,045,446</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,383,454</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>PAYROLL AND RELATED COSTS</b>		
FT Salaries	\$3,626,809	\$3,775,000
PT Salaries	\$600,000	\$775,000
NYS Retirement System	\$520,977	\$396,434
Payroll Taxes & Processing Fees	\$344,350	\$373,075
Employee Benefits	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,192,136</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,419,509</u></b>
<b>OCCUPANCY COSTS</b>		
North Albany Services	\$10,000	\$19,200
Utilities & Telephone	\$160,000	\$215,000
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$145,000	\$200,000
Maintenance Service Contracts	\$185,000	\$200,000
Custodial Supplies	\$70,000	\$70,000
Vehicle Maintenance	\$8,000	\$8,000
Furniture/Building Improvements	\$25,000	\$50,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$648,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$762,200</u></b>
<b>MATERIALS AND SERVICES</b>		
Books & Audio/Visual Materials	\$402,978	\$405,000
Periodicals	\$52,000	\$52,000
Central Library Development	\$85,643	\$80,298
Central Book Aid	\$64,251	\$66,862
Digital Content	\$66,300	\$70,000
Programming	\$75,000	\$79,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$746,172</u></b>	<b><u>\$753,160</u></b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISC.</b>		
Office & Library Supplies	\$55,000	\$55,000
Bank Fees	\$8,000	\$6,000
Memberships	\$4,000	\$4,000
Postage	\$5,000	\$4,000
Publicity & Printing	\$20,000	\$40,000
Training/Travel	\$15,000	\$17,000
Community Relations	\$5,000	\$5,000
Professional Services	\$175,000	\$160,000
Tax Cert Payments	\$100,000	\$100,000
Liability Insurance	\$70,000	\$75,000
UHLAN Fees	\$58,941	\$58,941
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$515,941</u></b>	<b><u>\$524,941</u></b>
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Information Technology Services	\$160,166	\$160,000
Information Technology Software	\$40,137	\$45,000
Information Technology Hardware	\$90,000	\$65,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$290,303</u></b>	<b><u>\$270,000</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES - LIBRARY OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,392,552</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,729,810</u></b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>		
Total Debt Service Payment on Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,652,894	\$1,653,644
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,045,446</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,383,454</u></b>

## Tax Impact of Proposed 2022-23 Library Budget with 2.5% Increase

Home Property Assessed Value	2022-23 Projected Tax Rate (Homestead) \$1.634145 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Total \$ Increase Over 2021-22 Budget
\$100,000	\$163.41	\$3.99
\$125,000	\$204.27	\$4.98
\$150,000	\$245.12	\$5.98
\$175,000	\$285.98	\$6.98
\$200,000	\$326.83	\$7.97
\$225,000	\$367.68	\$8.97
\$250,000	\$408.54	\$9.96
\$275,000	\$449.39	\$10.96
\$300,000	\$490.24	\$11.96
\$325,000	\$531.10	\$12.96
\$350,000	\$571.95	\$13.95
\$375,000	\$612.80	\$14.94
\$400,000	\$653.66	\$15.94
\$425,000	\$694.51	\$16.94
\$450,000	\$735.37	\$17.94
\$475,000	\$776.22	\$18.93
\$500,000	\$817.07	\$19.93



## TRUSTEE CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Ten Albany residents are running for four available seats on the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. The vote is Tuesday, May 17, from 7 am to 9 pm at City School District of Albany polling places.

The library candidates, listed in ballot order, are:

1. **Sarah Macinski**
2. **Gene Damm**
3. **Kevin Whitehead**
4. **Paige A. Barnum**
5. **Lynnette D. Robinson**
6. **Ford P. R. McLain**
7. **Kirsten Broschinsky**
8. **Andréa C. West**
9. **Tabora D. Marcus**
10. **Carlos Velasquéz**

< Photos and statements were provided by the candidates. >

### 1. SARAH MACINSKI

Edgewood Ave., 12203



As an epidemiologist, I use data to find patterns and translate those patterns into narratives that can effect change. I believe data is essential.

We didn't have a television when I was in high school, and I can still hear the crackling of dial-up internet. I spent lots of time digging through card catalogs, scanning through microfiche, and finding my next book at the library.

I am the proud mother of a junior at Albany High. I believe in giving back. I moved to Albany 21 years ago for my first "real job" and graduate school. I never left.

I love APL and want to give back. While I have a romantic notion of the stories and lessons on the shelves, I believe that the services help move our entire community forward. The library is both nostalgia and hope for the future – what else can claim that?

### 2. GENE DAMM

Fairlawn Ave., 12203



Career: substitute teacher, Albany public schools; summer teaching assistant, Saint Anne Institute; managing editor, South End Scene; legislative budget analyst, Assembly Ways & Means; economics degree, UAlbany.

I went to PS #16. On my third grade report card my teacher said "Gene is a good listener" and "works well with others". You can sum up my entire life by saying I've tried to live up to my teacher's high expectations.

In middle school I made an amazing discovery. I found a book on my own in the library. It was called *The History of the English Speaking People* by Winston Churchill. It meant more to me because it wasn't school assigned. Using the library for discovery became a lifetime habit.

I've had a relationship with the Library for 45 years. I'm a 3-term president of the Friends; I was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2011 by the Upper Hudson Library System and negotiated the merger of the Friends and Foundation. I want to be a trustee so I can better influence library policy.

### 3. KEVIN WHITEHEAD

Wood Terr., 12208



I work for the New York State Office of the State Comptroller as an Information Technology Specialist focused on System Administration, and I'm a union steward.

I attended SUNY Albany for computer science but didn't permanently move here until about three years ago. Though I'm relatively new to Albany, I've fallen in love with my neighborhood, our city, and its culture. I've spent the last year researching and learning about the history of Albany, because I think it's important to understand our whole story in order help determine the best way to keep moving forward and avoid repeating mistakes.

I'm running for the library board because I'm passionate about supporting Albany's wonderful libraries. I believe my organizational skills and attention to detail will help to ensure that all the library's programs will get the focus and care they deserve.

### 4. PAIGE A. BARNUM

Lancaster St., 12210



Community & Park Planner. Ability to creatively collaborate and problem solve, understand social/environmental impacts of policy decisions, articulate complex community issues to diverse audiences.

I am a committed public servant—it started with a letter to the editor in 6<sup>th</sup> grade concerning public school facilities—with experience in non-profit, local and state government work. I moved to Albany to help protect and celebrate New York's state parks and historic sites. I am engaged in several community groups and professional boards, regularly attend talks and events around the Capital District, and am an avid baseball fan.

Libraries remind us of our shared responsibility to support one another and what it means to build community. A lifelong library patron, I am running to advocate for accessible resources and facilities, and the continued provision of inclusive programs and services that ensure our community is "educated, entertained, and empowered."



*Watch the candidate forum and trustee meetings at*  
[AlbanyNYLibrary](#)

## 5. LYNNETTE D. ROBINSON

Beverly Ave., 12206



Lynnette Danielle Robinson is a native of Westchester County, New York.

In 2010 Lynnette relocated to Albany, New York and has been very active in her community. Lynnette is the past Director for the Metropolitan Light on The

Hill Summer Camp. Recently, Lynnette helped organize, a community book drive, where over 300 books were distributed to families. Lynnette is employed at KIPP Albany Community Charter School; she taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and now serves as Operations Coordinator. Lynnette is also a member of the 5th Ward Democratic Committee and was recently honored as a Women of Distinction by the Albany County Democratic Committee.

Lynnette is running for the Albany Library Board Trustee because she is passionate about inspiring the current and next generation of leaders and readers by advocating for programs that enrich families, ensuring that our libraries are adaptable to change and accessible to city residents from all neighborhoods.

Lynnette is married to the Hon. Jahmel K. Robinson; they are parents to twins Zari and Zakari and reside in the West Hill Neighborhood.

## 6. FORD P. R. McLAIN

Elm St., 12202



Ford P. R. McLain is a teaching assistant at Hackett Middle School and a primitive abstract painter. His skills include public speaking, writing, organizing, and painting.

McLain moved to Albany in 1995 to work for the State.

Since then, he has dug in.

He has taught at the College of Saint Rose, curated art shows, and driven an airport taxi.

He is a proud father.

He is a voracious reader.

McLain paints and has shown his art in Albany.

He has run for office before. Although he is running now, he considers himself a painter, not a politician.

*"I run out of love for my fellow Albanians, for our libraries, and for the First Amendment. Albany Public Library is the one public entity available and accountable to all its citizens. In these troubled and divisive times, its mission and services can help make us whole."*



***More information about the budget and candidates is online***  
***[albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget/](http://albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget/)***

## 7. KIRSTEN BROSCHINSKY

Edgewood Ave., 12203



Kirsten has lived in the Albany area since moving here from Utah in 2011. She grew up in Wyoming and Utah, with a brief stint in the Washington, DC area to receive her MPA from the George Washington University. She found her love of the non-profit world in college and has

followed that career path since, including the past nine years at Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

Kirsten and her husband, Solon, live in Albany with their dog Arlo. She enjoys being outdoors, yoga, reading, running, exploring the history of the Northeast and spending time with those she loves. Kirsten credits wandering the stacks of her local library as a child and teen for defining the person she has become. She is excited and humbled by this opportunity to serve the Albany Public Library.

## 8. ANDRÉA C. WEST

Edgecomb St., 12209



Andréa C. West is a City of Albany native who began her career in public service at the New York State Assembly and was responsible for constituent services/communications. Ms. West then made a transition to the City of Albany where she worked for 15 years in payroll,

civil service, and human resources before joining the Albany Housing Authority. Since November 2018, Andréa has worked as the Assistant Director of Human Resources for the City School District of Albany.

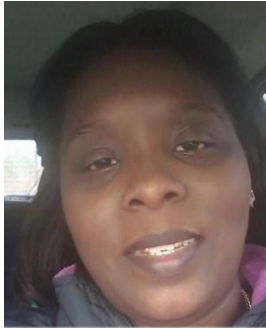
Andréa has served the Albany community for over 40 years through food drives, book drives, toy drives, park clean-ups, giving scholarships to graduating high school seniors, college fairs, mentoring area youth, and backpack giveaways just to name a few.

*"I am seeking to serve as Library Trustee because I wish to preserve equal access to information and ideas for all library patrons through diversity, equity and inclusion."*

***Polling places & absentee ballots are on the school district's website  
[albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information](http://albanyschools.org/business/budget/voting-information)***

## 9. TABORA D. MARCUS

2nd St., 12206



Tabora Marcus is the President of the WHNA and owner of TBE Property Management LLC. A business that empowers and educates all communities on ownership.

Ms. Marcus was born and raised in Miami, Florida. In 2003, she relocated to Albany, New York with her children. Tabora moved to the West Hill neighborhood and was faced with some difficult decision, she decided to stay and be the change she wanted to see in the community. Ms. Marcus became a mentor to young women in her community and recently worked with other community leaders to re-engage the West Hill Neighborhood Association.

This opportunity would be a start to ensuring this community has a voice and a platform to discuss and advocate for the things that affect their quality of life. I have been successful in my advocacy work, and instrumental in ensuring that the West Hill community needs are addressed.

## 10. CARLOS VELASQUÉZ

Jefferson St., 12210



I retired from NYS Higher Education in 2014. I was a Supervisor for the Students Loan Collection Unit. I was also a international manager for various banks in NYC.

I joined the US Marines in 1971, I am a Vietnam veteran. I have 2 boys and 6 grandchildren. I was born in Puerto Rico but was raised in Brooklyn NY. I graduated with honor from East New York High School.

I was the President of Centro Civico of Amsterdam NY. I enjoy reading, writing and playing Sudoku. I also enjoy cooking, and take long walks every day.

The reason I want to be a Trustee is because of my experience in life. I can offer my knowledge, and my education in life to better the library, staffs and the public sector. My love for the library will brings ideas to make Albany library the best in the USA.



**POLLS OPEN**  
**7 am — 9 pm**

*Follow us for vote results*



**@AlbanyNYLibrary**