



Albany Public Library

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

Budget Vote & Trustee Election | May 19, 2026 | Polls Open 7 am-9 pm

BUDGET VOTE

- **What appears on the May 19 ballot?**
 - Library items appear on the same ballot as school items. Voters will see the proposed operating budget for the library's fiscal year 2026-2027, which is \$9,661,856.
 - Voters will also see names of trustee candidates, and must select three names for the three open seats.
- **How will the budget affect taxpayers?**
 - The owner of a home assessed at \$250,000 will see an increase of \$42.58 in library taxes. See a complete [tax impact grid](#).
 - The proposed operating budget tax levy reflects an increase of 17% over the current year. View the [line-item budget](#).
- **Why does the library need an operating budget tax increase for fiscal year 2026-2027?**
 - The proposed increase addresses the impact of expenses that have gone up more dramatically in recent years, including health benefits and utilities.
 - The proposed increase helps stabilize reserve funds to maintain branch facilities and be eligible for construction grants.
- **What will I see in my tax bill?**
 - The total tax levy for the library includes annual debt service for the Branch Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters in February 2007.
 - Factoring in the Branch Improvement Plan debt service, the combined percent increase in total library taxes in fiscal year 2026-2027 is 14.5%.
- **What is the budget approval process?**
 - The Board of Trustees approved the resolution for the operating budget tax levy on March 10 at their regular meeting, along with a resolution to override the New York State tax cap.
 - You can view the [board's February 23 Special Budget meeting](#) on YouTube. At the annual Special Budget Meeting, the board received detailed information about the budget proposal that was recommended by the Audit & Finance Committee.
- **How can I learn more?**
 - Watch recent Board meetings, or read recent budget-related material, available on the [Board of Trustees page](#).
 - Reach out to Executive Director Andrea Nicolay with your questions: nicolaya@albanypubliclibrary.org or (518) 427-4300 x0379.
 - See if your Neighborhood Association has scheduled an APL community report and budget information presentation. APL is on the agendas of 15 Neighborhood Associations across the city (and counting).
 - Attend an upcoming Budget Table Talk with Executive Director Nicolay. Table Talks will be held on public floors of all APL branches during April. Details will appear on the library's online calendar and social media channels.

TRUSTEE ELECTION

- Three board seats are up for election in 2026.
 - Two positions carry full 5-year terms and one has a partial 1-year term.
 - The top vote-getters take the two 5-year terms, and the third highest vote-getter takes the 1-year term.
- Albany residents who would like to run for a seat need to complete and submit nominating petitions.
 - Download the nominating packet from the library's [Budget page](#).
 - Candidates must collect signatures from at least 65 qualified voters.
 - Candidates must deliver completed petitions to the City School District of Albany (1 Academy Park) by 5 pm on Wednesday, April 29.
- The library will announce the trustee candidate names on April 30 after the petitions have been validated by the school district.
- The public is invited to hear from the candidates at a forum on Tuesday, May 5, at 6 pm at the Washington Ave. Branch. The [forum will be livestreamed, and recorded for later viewing, on YouTube](#).

Library Budget & Trustee Election



albanypubliclibrary.org/about/budget/



Polling Places, Early Voting & Absentee Ballots



albanyschools.org/business/budget/index

Public Vote on 2026-27 Operating Tax Levy
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

	FY2025-26 Current Budget	FY2026-27 PROPOSED Budget
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Tax Levy - Library Operations	\$8,257,997	\$9,661,856
Tax Levy - Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,607,144	\$1,657,144
TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$9,865,141	\$11,319,000
OTHER REVENUE		
PILOT Payment	\$191,432	\$235,174
NYS Grants	\$302,030	\$228,175
Federal Grants	\$35,640	\$35,640
Other Grants/Construction Grant	\$0	\$0
Fees and Sales	\$55,000	\$60,000
Interest Income	\$100,000	\$150,000
Rent Income	\$58,575	\$27,200
SUBTOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$742,677	\$736,189
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$10,607,818	\$12,055,189
EXPENDITURES		
PAYROLL AND RELATED COSTS		
FT Salaries	\$4,226,583	\$4,269,991
PT Salaries	\$940,000	\$1,097,149
NYS Retirement System	\$655,264	\$754,761
Payroll Taxes & Processing Fees	\$415,244	\$431,360
Employee Benefits	\$1,200,000	\$1,350,000
TOTAL	\$7,437,091	\$7,903,261
OCCUPANCY COSTS		
North Albany Services	\$33,098	\$33,098
Utilities & Telephone	\$200,000	\$250,000
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$215,000	\$215,000
Maintenance Service Contracts	\$195,000	\$195,000
Custodial Supplies	\$50,000	\$50,000
Vehicle Maintenance	\$12,000	\$12,000
Furniture/Building Improvements	\$40,000	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$745,098	\$795,098
MATERIALS AND SERVICES		
Books & Audio/Visual Materials	\$390,000	\$390,000
Periodicals	\$57,000	\$57,000
Central Library Development	\$167,599	\$93,747
Digital Content	\$139,760	\$139,760
Programming & Community Engagement	\$80,000	\$80,000
TOTAL	\$834,359	\$760,507
ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISC.		
Office & Library Supplies	\$70,000	\$70,000
Bank Fees	\$25,000	\$10,000
Memberships	\$3,000	\$3,000
Postage	\$4,500	\$5,000
Publicity & Printing	\$27,000	\$27,000
Training/Travel	\$17,000	\$17,000
Professional Services	\$150,000	\$150,000
Tax Cert. Payments	\$50,000	\$0
UHLAN Fees	\$65,000	\$70,000
Liability Insurance	\$95,000	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$506,500	\$452,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Information Technology Services	\$190,000	\$200,000
Information Technology Software	\$35,000	\$35,000
Information Technology Hardware	\$75,000	\$75,000
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$310,000
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/CONTINGENCY		
	\$0	\$177,179
Operating Deficit / Projected use of Fund Balance	\$822,374	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - LIBRARY OPERATIONS	\$9,823,048	\$10,398,045
Total Debt Service Payment on Branch Improvement Plan	\$1,607,144	\$1,657,144
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,430,192	\$12,055,189

Tax Impact of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Increase

Fiscal Year	Proposed Operating Tax Levy Increase	Tax Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value	Assessed Value of Homestead Properties											
			\$100K	\$125K	\$150K	\$175K	\$200K	\$225K	\$250K	\$300K	\$350K	\$400K	\$450K	\$500K
2025-2026		1.155595717	\$115.56	\$144.45	\$173.34	\$202.23	\$231.12	\$260.01	\$288.90	\$346.68	\$404.46	\$462.24	\$520.02	\$577.80
2026-2027		1.325899743	\$132.59	\$165.74	\$198.88	\$232.03	\$265.18	\$298.33	\$331.47	\$397.77	\$464.06	\$530.36	\$596.65	\$662.95
Increase in Total Library Tax			\$17.03	\$21.29	\$25.55	\$29.80	\$34.06	\$38.32	\$42.58	\$51.09	\$59.61	\$68.12	\$76.64	\$85.15