WadsworthLibrary

LIBRARY ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE POLICY

Purpose

This policy establishes how Wadsworth Library conducts its annual vote on the library budget appropriation and the election of library trustees. It confirms the Board's authority to run its own election, sets the governing standards, and commits the library to conduct each vote in compliance with all applicable law.

Authority

Wadsworth Library is a school district public library serving the Geneseo Central School District, chartered by the Board of Regents in 2008 and established by district voters under Education Law §255. The Board of Trustees holds the powers conferred by Education Law §260, including the authority under §260(7) to call, give notice of, and conduct a district meeting for electing trustees and submitting the library budget appropriation under §259. The Board exercises this authority consistent with the library's charter and bylaws.

Election Method

At this time, the Board conducts its own annual library budget vote and trustee election rather than ask the Geneseo Central School District to include those items in its annual meeting. The Board may request a change to this practice through negotiations with the school district. If the Board chooses not to conduct the vote, the election and budget vote will be noticed and conducted by the Board of Education as part of the district's annual meeting, as provided in §260(7).

Timing

The annual library vote and trustee election shall be held after the first day of April and before the first day of July, on a date set each year by Board resolution. The resolution shall fix the date, time, and place of the vote. Polls shall remain open for the period set in that resolution, consistent with the standard in Education Law §2002.

Voter Eligibility

A person may vote in the library election if that person is a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, and a resident of the Geneseo Central School District for at least thirty days preceding the vote, registered to vote in general or school board election and is otherwise qualified under Education Law §2012. The library shall coordinate with the district and the Livingston County Board of Elections on voter registration and the qualified-voter list.

Trustee Nominations

Candidates for trustee shall be nominated by petition meeting the requirements of Education Law §260(8) and §2018. Each nominating petition shall be signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters of the library district, or two percent of the voters who voted in the last annual election of the library board of trustees, whichever is greater, and shall be filed with the library no later than the thirtieth day preceding the election. Additional requirements governing trustee eligibility, the number and length of terms, the filling of vacancies, and the oath of office are set out in the library's charter and bylaws and apply in addition to this policy.

Notice and Publication

The library shall publish notice of the vote and election as provided in Education Law §2004, four times within the seven weeks preceding the vote, with the first publication at least forty-five days before the vote, in the newspaper or newspapers of general circulation serving the district. Notice shall state the date, time, and place of the vote, the availability of the budget statement, and the deadline for filing trustee nominating petitions.

Absentee, Military, and Other Ballots

The library shall provide for absentee voting under Education Law §2018-b and for military voters under §2018-d and 8 NYCRR Part 122, applying the deadlines and procedures used for school district elections. The library shall confirm each year whether additional ballot options apply to its election and shall administer them accordingly.

Election Neutrality and Public Information

The library does not endorse, support, or oppose any trustee candidate, the budget proposition, or any outcome of the vote. The library may distribute objective, factual information about the election, including the date, time, and place of the vote, the number of open seats, the names of candidates as they appear on the ballot, the role of the library, and the community needs reflected in the library's long-range plan. The library shall not use public funds or its official platforms to advocate for a candidate or a result, consistent Article VIII, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. Individual trustees and employees retain the right to support a candidate in their personal capacity, provided they make clear they are not speaking for the library.

Budget Re-vote

If the budget appropriation is defeated, the Board may resubmit the same or a revised appropriation at a special district meeting called under Education Law §260(9), held before the first day of July. Resubmission is discretionary. When a proposed increase is defeated, the library's previously approved appropriation continues in effect, so a revote is warranted only where the additional funds are needed to maintain adequate library service. The Board will consider a revote only where continued operation at the prior

appropriation would jeopardize the library's services or financial stability, or where the appropriation was defeated by a margin within 25% percentage points. The Board will not pursue a revote where the proposition was defeated by a wide margin.

Administration and Delegation

The Director shall administer each election in accordance with this policy and the library's Election Procedure and Calendar, which sets the dated tasks for each cycle. The Operations Committee shall oversee election preparation under its bylaws charge over the annual vote. The Director shall consult the school district and the library system for guidance on proposition wording, legal notices, and the mechanics of the vote.

Records and Certification

The Board shall certify the results of each vote and election by resolution and shall retain ballots and election records as required by law. Ballots shall be retained for at least one year and may be destroyed by Board resolution after one year if no challenge to the election is pending.

Compliance Attestation

In conducting every library vote and trustee election, the library shall comply with the New York State Education Law, the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, and all other applicable law. Where this policy or the Election Procedure and Calendar is silent, the library shall follow the procedures applicable to school district annual meetings and elections under Article 41 of the Education Law.

Review

The Board shall review this policy each year as part of its election and budget planning, before the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is set, so that trustees understand the election process going into each cycle. This annual review is for understanding and does not require any change to the policy, though the Board may amend it at any time. The Board shall update the Election Procedure and Calendar each year.

Adopted by the Wadsworth Library Board of Trustees on July 9, 2026.