ALA
American Library Association
Guide to the 2017 Elections
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Message from ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels

Voting is one of the most important things you can do as a member of the American Library Association. This is because the officers you elect will make a real difference:

The President of the Association will serve as the public voice of the Association, libraries of all types and all across the nation, and of American libraries around the world. The president represents us as members and the library users we serve, doing hundreds of media interviews and speaking with dozens of groups each year. A new president-elect is elected every year. This year we have three candidates vying for this position, two of whom were nominated by the ALA Nominating Committee and one who has chosen to run by petition.

The Treasurer helps chart the financial future of the Association, and makes sure that our dues dollars get the maximum “bang for the buck”. The treasurer works closely with member advisory groups and staff to guide the Association through financial ups and financial downs, and helps support our work on behalf of libraries and the public by sustaining a strong Association. The treasurer position appears on the ballot every three years. We elected a new treasurer in 2016, so the next treasurer election will be in 2019.

The 186 Councilors are responsible for setting the broad policies that shape our Association’s public positions and direction. Whether we’re talking about intellectual freedom, the privatization of libraries or e-books, Councilors weigh all of the factors and make sure that the Association takes stands that are important to libraries and to the public we serve.

You may also be wondering about “petition candidates.” ALA has a Nominating Committee that slates individuals to run for the offices of president-elect, treasurer, and councilor-at-large. We also have a process whereby individuals can file petitions to get on the ballot by obtaining a required number of signatures from ALA members. Once the petition process is completed, petition candidates and nominated candidates are treated exactly the same. They are not differentiated on the ballot because they are on equal footing and are all viable candidates for these positions.

All of these elected officers represent you and your interests. The good news — You get to pick them! So your vote is very, very important.

This Online Election “Booklet” is designed to provide:

- Some information and insights about the Presidency, Treasurer and Council.
- Some Council “myth busters” and some examples of Council’s recent resolutions relating to libraries.
- Easy-to-find information about the candidates.
- Voting instructions and timeline.

Reviewing candidate information and voting does take some time, but we hope that you will join the members who understand that their vote really does shape the future. So get out and vote!

Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director
American Library Association
The ALA President

The individual elected to the position of ALA President serves three years on the ALA Executive Board: One year as President-elect, one year as President, and one year as Immediate Past President.

The role of the ALA President is to be the Association’s chief spokesperson and to work closely with the ALA’s Executive Director in identifying and promoting library issues nationwide and internationally. The ALA President is recognized as the Association’s leader by its members. He/she is also vital to the governance of the Association and serves as presiding officer at Executive Board, Council, and Membership meetings.

Throughout this three-year term, the individual promotes ALA’s programs, priorities, and key messages through attendance at various state, national, and international library association meetings, as well as with the media. They lead the Association in planning for the future and work closely with members to ensure that their ideas and concerns help drive the overall direction of the Association.

The ALA President is also a member, ex officio with vote, of the Board of Trustees of the Freedom to Read Foundation. They also serve as the President of the ALA-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA).

Based on the experience of successful past ALA presidents, this position is equal to at least a half-time job.

During the year as President-elect, this individual serves as spokesperson for the Association in the absence of the president or when asked to do so. They also represent the Association at meetings, conferences, receptions, legislative hearings, and other events.

Presidential Initiatives

The President develops presidential initiatives in keeping with the prevailing ALA messages and Strategic Plan. Here are some recent presidential accomplishments:

2016–2017 President Julie Todaro

To further the success of ALA’s public awareness campaign, Libraries Transform, Todaro’s Libraries Transform: The Expert in the Library initiative focuses on the librarian. Teams from all sectors of the library world — academic, public, school, and special libraries — will work together to find and create the best materials to design a 21st-century human resources “playbook” for the librarian of the future. This will include value statements; core competencies; job descriptions and job titles; competencies for multiple levels of positions; recommended competencies matched to training and continuing education; and more.

Along with Libraries Transform: The Expert in the Library, there will be a special emphasis on book clubs with content available on a new Book Club Central website and in various programs at the 2017 Annual Conference.

In addition, Todaro created the 45-115 ALA Federal Initiative (45th US President-115th Congress), to promote our vision and national
agenda to leading federal policymakers and to position US libraries and library professionals as valuable assets and team members in the setting of federal policy and the advancement of national goals for both the Administrative and Legislative branches. The 45-115 ALA Federal Initiative intends to highlight and strengthen library community efforts to communicate the value of libraries.

2015–2016 President Sari Feldman

With generous support from Overdrive, on October 29, 2015, Feldman launched Libraries Transform, ALA’s multi-year public awareness campaign. Its ultimate goal is to increase funding support for libraries and advance information policy issues in alignment with ALA advocacy goals.

Libraries Transform focuses on the one main idea that libraries today are less about what they have for people and more about what they do for and with people. The campaign’s broad objectives are to:

- increase awareness of and support for the transforming library;
- shift perception of library from “obsolete” or “nice to have” to essential;
- energize library professionals and build external advocates to influence local, state and national decision makers.

Visit www.librariestransform.org for more information.

2014–2015 President Courtney Young

Rather than create new initiative projects, 2014–2015 President Courtney Young focused her resources on “kick starting” programs that were already being proposed and further enhancing programs already underway throughout the Association. Examples include working with the Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment in partnership with ALA Chapters to provide training for a national cohort of 25 librarians from a cross section of libraries to become certified Career Development Facilitators (CDF).

Young also assisted ALA Staff to create a Media Resource Archive for ALA which will include photos, audio, video, and other material that can be turned into content and messages for advocacy, member engagement, marketing, communication, social media, recruitment, media outreach, and publications.

Finally, Young assisted the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) with the development of an annual Leadership Conference for state affiliate leaders.
2013–2014 President Barbara Stripling

Following the lead of her predecessors, 2013–2014 President Barbara Stripling continued the transformation process with her “Libraries Change Lives” initiative. The initiative is framed around three areas of transformative practice that enable community members to change their lives: literacy, community engagement, and innovation.

Stripling developed the Declaration for the Right to Libraries which continues to collect signatures across the country — and the world — from individuals who want to affirm their right to libraries. All kinds of libraries — public, school, academic, as well as “special” libraries in hospitals, law firms, banks, and corporations — are organizing declaration signings to raise public awareness about the role that libraries play in our communities, and to generate dialog about the needs of the community and how the library can be a solution to these needs.

Stripling also worked to engage libraries and their communities by promoting library partnerships with TEDx events which are designed to engage community members through collaborative engagement, focusing on the concept of “ideas worth spreading.”

A series of webinars, with topics ranging from maker space to strategic partnering to literacy innovations, took place throughout Stripling’s presidential year.

Stripling’s presidency culminated with a Summit on the Future of Libraries in Washington, DC, May 2–3, 2014. The summit brought together thought leaders both within and outside of the library profession to focus on thinking differently about the future of libraries in the context of societal, educational, and technological changes.

This Year’s Candidates

This year’s candidates for ALA President-elect are Terri Grief, Loida Garcia-Febo, and Scott Walter.

Loida Garcia-Febo, International Library Consultant and President of Information New Wave in Brooklyn, New York, has been an ALA member for 15 years and has served the library profession both domestically and internationally. Her organization, Information New Wave, is a non-profit organization seeking to bring access to information to underserved populations.

Garcia-Febo has served on the ALA Council from 2011–present and was elected to the ALA Executive Board 2015–18. In addition, she has held numerous committee appointments within ALA including the Committee on Diversity, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Nominating Committee; she has chaired the International Relations Committee, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Committee on Membership meetings, and is currently the chair-elect of the International Relations Round Table.

She is also very active in IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations) and currently sits on their governing board, and REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking) where she co-chairs its 2017 National Conference Committee, and served on the executive board from 2008–11, including president from 2009–10.

“Libraries save lives,” said Garcia-Febo. “More than ever, we need strong libraries to foster stronger communities. I hold almost 20 years of library work and leadership experience. I have worked in a variety of
libraries, including academic, public, school, and special libraries. As ALA president, I would bring focus to four important pillars: Advocacy, Diversity & Inclusion, Career Development, and Information Policies. I am committed and energized to collaborate with ALA, its members, divisions, and partners for the advancement of our profession and the future of libraries. I look forward to working together with you as we take action to advance library concerns on the national agenda.”

Garcia-Febo is the recipient of the 2015 REFORMA Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award. She was named a Notable Member on ALA’s International Relations Round Table, received the Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award in 2010 and was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker Freedom Fighter in 2007. She was also awarded an ALA/IFLA Fellowship for the 2004 IFLA Congress where she co-established the IFLA New Professionals.

Garcia-Febo is a frequent speaker, consultant and published author in the areas of human rights, access to information, diversity, new professionals, and continuing professional development.

She received both her MLS degree and BA in Business Education from the University of Puerto Rico, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Information Sciences at the Long Island University.

Her numerous ALA activities include serving as a member of the Committee on Literacy, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Nominating Committee, and chair of the Training, Orientation, and Leadership Development Committee. She has also served the AASL National Conference Committee in various capacities, including co-chair of the committee in 2011 and she was the AASL Affiliate Assembly chair 1999–2000.

In addition, Grief served as the 2001–02 president of the Kentucky Library Association, and the 1997–98 president of the Kentucky Association of School Librarians.

Grief received the Kentucky Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, the Barby Hardy Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kentucky Association of School Librarians in 2013, the McCracken County Education Association Teacher of the Year in 2002, and the Kentucky Association of School Librarians Outstanding School Librarian in 2001.

“I am humbled by this nomination,” Grief stated. “The American Library Association has been such an important part of my life and I would be honored to serve it as president.”

Grief holds an MA in Educational Administration and Supervision and an MA in History, both from Murray State University, as well as a School Library Media Certification from Murray State. She also holds a BA in Library Science and History from Western Kentucky University.

Terri Grief, is a School Librarian at McCracken County High School in Paducah, Kentucky. An ALA member for 19 years, Grief served as the 2013–14 president of the American Association for School Librarians (AASL) and has been a member of ALA Council as the Kentucky chapter councilor 2003–05, AASL division council 2010–13, and councilor-at-large 2016–present. She served on the ALA Executive Board 2005–09.

In addition, Grief served as the 2001–02 president of the Kentucky Library Association, and the 1997–98 president of the Kentucky Association of School Librarians.
Scott Walter is university librarian at DePaul University, Chicago.


Walter is also an active member of OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center where he has held various positions, including as a current Americas Regional Council Delegate to Global Council.

He is a 2016 participant in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies Senior Fellow Program, and received the ACRL Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award in 2012.

Walter recently provided leadership for the design and launch of Chicago Collections, a unique consortium of academic libraries, public libraries, museums, historical societies, and others dedicated to the preservation, discovery, and use of materials and expertise related to the City of Chicago. As an elected representative to a Chicago Local School Council, he collaborates with K–12 librarians, teachers, principals, and parents to advocate for school libraries and librarians in Chicago public schools.

Walter has been engaged in professional education programs for librarians for more than a decade, and has served as an adjunct member of the faculty in LIS programs at the University of Illinois, San Jose State University, and Dominican University.

Walter is a frequent speaker and published author in areas such as information literacy instruction, library assessment, and the future of library services.

“Libraries, archives, museums, and the people who work in them have a critical role to play in a world where challenges to intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, and informed citizenship seem greater than they have in decades,” said Walter. “ALA has a unique opportunity to bring people together in support of the core values of our profession with an eye toward empowering our members and their allies to advocate for libraries, library staff, and the people who depend on the library to make a difference in their lives. I will bring strong experience in libraries and a commitment to values-centered leadership, member empowerment, and activism at the grassroots level to the ALA presidency. I will make it my mission to work with members across the country and around the world to answer the key questions of how ALA makes a difference in their lives, and how, through ALA, our libraries can be the force for good in our communities that they need to be today.”

Walter holds a PhD in higher education administration from Washington State University, an MS in History and Philosophy of Education from Indiana University Bloomington, an MLS also from Indiana University Bloomington, an MA in Education from American University, an MA in Russian Area Studies, a BS in Russian, and a BS in Linguistics, all from Georgetown University.

Video of the Presidential Candidates’ Forum at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting can be viewed on ALA’s YouTube channel.
ALA Council

What Is Council?

The Council is the governing body of ALA. It delegates to the divisions of the Association authority to plan and carry out programs and activities with policy established by Council. Council determines all policies of the Association and its decisions are binding unless set aside by a majority vote in which one-fourth of the members of the Association have voted.

Council Composition

Council is comprised of 100 councilors-at-large who are elected by the Association membership as provided in Bylaw Article III, Sec. 1(c) and Bylaw Article IV, Sec. 2(e). The slate of councilor-at-large candidates is determined by the ALA Nominating Committee.

Each division of the Association is entitled to one councilor to be elected by members of the divisions as provided in Bylaw Article IV, Sec. 2(c).

Each state and territorial chapter is entitled to one councilor to be elected by members of the chapter as provided by Bylaw Article IV, Sec. 2(b). Chapter representation is through state chapters unless chapters in a region choose to take representation through that regional chapter. In such case, the regional chapter shall elect one representative from each state or provincial chapter within that regional association. There is no current regional chapter representation.

Round tables with personal membership equal to or greater than one percent of ALA’s total personal membership shall be entitled to elect one councilor each, and the remaining round tables jointly shall be entitled to one councilor to be elected for a term of three years by the members of the respective round tables. The membership of the round tables, for purposes of this section, shall be fixed as of August 31st of each year. A councilor elected under this Article shall continue to serve without prejudice to any change that might occur in the size of the membership of their round table as provided in Bylaw Article IV, Sec. 2(d).
Councilors serve three-year terms and may run for subsequent terms by filing a petition which must be signed by at least 25 ALA members in good standing. Petition candidates are placed on the ballot along with candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

Council Responsibilities

The Council meets four times at both the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. At these meetings, Council may perform any or all of the following duties (this is a partial list):

- Review actions of the ALA Executive Board;
- Receive reports from the ALA President, Executive Director, Treasurer, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the Endowment Trustees;
- Originate and act on all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws before these are submitted to the membership for vote;
- Establish dues for chapter, organization and corporate ALA members upon recommendation of the Executive Board;
- Establish or discontinue divisions or round tables;
- Determine all Association policies;
- Authorize changes, additions, and deletions in the ALA Policy Manual upon recommendation of the Policy Monitoring Committee.

Council “Mythbusters”

Myth: Once you’re on Council, you’re on for life, so what’s the point of voting if the same people keep getting re-elected?

Actually, based on an unofficial census, approximately 26.9% of councilors have served more than four (4) years; and only 6.6% of all councilors between 1992 and the present have served more than nine (9) years. In fact, of the 34 councilors whose terms expire in 2016, only 12 are running for re-election.

Myth: You have to be an ALA member for many many years before you can be elected to Council.

In the past three elections, the average length of ALA membership of those elected to Council was 16 years, with the shortest being one year of membership and the longest being 40 years.

Myth: Councilors get a “free-ride” to Midwinter and Annual Conference.

Not true! ALA does not pay for councilors to attend conferences; in fact, many councilors receive no financial support from their home institutions and have to pay out-of-pocket to attend conferences and serve on the ALA Council.

Myth: Council does not address topics that are pertinent to libraries or the profession.

While it is true that the ALA Council occasionally discusses such matters as the war in Iraq or the crisis in Kenya, most Council actions relate directly to library issues. Following is a partial list of actions taken by ALA Council in recent years.
In 2014 Council passed:

- A resolution on expanding federal whistleblower protections, which
  urges Congress to amend the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 to extend existing legal protections for whistleblowers to employees of all national security and intelligence agencies, and to non-federal employees working for civilian contractors;
  urges Congress to establish a secure procedure by which all federal employees, and all non-federal employees working for civilian contractors, may safely share evidence they have discovered of fraud, waste, or abuse with the appropriate oversight committees of Congress, and directly with the press and the American people, with the protection of legally enforceable rights against retaliation or prosecution; and
  commends the courage and perseverance of federal employees, and non-federal employees working for civilian contractors, who risk their livelihoods, their reputations and their liberty to expose evidence of government fraud, waste, or abuse.

- A resolution on Curbing Government Surveillance and Restoring Civil Liberties, and commending Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman James Sensenbrenner for sponsoring the USA FREEDOM Act, the 143 legislators in the Senate and the House who have co-sponsored it, and the 85 organizations that have endorsed it, as of January 27, 2014.

- A resolution on maintaining government websites during a government shutdown and urging the president to direct the federal Office of Management and Budget (OM) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) to provide guidance to federal agencies that states that, in the event of a government shutdown or other emergency, continued access by the public to essential information on agency websites is an “excepted” activity that would warrant the retention of paid personnel or the obligation of funds.

- A resolution in Support of Stable Funding for Air Force Libraries and urging the Administration, DoD and USAF to develop responsible information and budget management strategies for Air Force Base and Command Libraries that aligns them directly with appropriated funds, rather than through base operations, where library funding is vulnerable to additional local cuts.

- A resolution granting the District of Columbia Government budget autonomy to allow city services, including libraries, to remain open during a federal government shutdown.

- A Resolution on Digitization of U.S. Government Documents, which read: “That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

  1. supports and encourages a national preservation plan for Federal Depository Library Program materials;
  2. encourages policies that promote digitization with a reasonable number of dispersed preserved copies of print FDLP materials;
  3. supports technologies that guarantee long-term, robust, verifiable, complete, accurate, authentic, preservable, and usable digital formats;
  4. works with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDL community on developing procedures to authenticate and ingest digital and digitized content into FDsys from federal depository libraries and federal agencies; and
  5. supports the creation of a no-fee, searchable, online inventory of digital and digitized government materials with downloadable metadata.”
In 2015, Council passed

- A resolution denouncing the assaults on the freedom of expression as exemplified in the attack on *Charlie Hebdo*, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
  1. denounces these bloody assaults on fundamental human rights;
  2. expresses its deepest condolences to all those associated with the publication *Charlie Hebdo* and to the French people;
  3. affirms its solidarity with L’Association des Bibliothécaires de France;
  4. reaffirms in the strongest possible terms its unwavering commitment to the advocacy and defense of intellectual freedom including freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of expression; and
  5. directs Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of the American Library Association, to communicate its support and resolve to Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic, for the people of France and to our colleagues of L’Association des Bibliothécaires de France.”

- A resolution on preserving public access to scientific and technical reports available through the National Technical Information Service, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
  1. urges the United States Congress to fund the provision of digital reports held by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to federal agencies and the public at no charge through NTIS, as well as the preservation of NTIS' print and microform collections so they will remain available for sale to the public on a cost-recovery basis; and
  2. urges the United States Congress to ensure that a national repository is selected, statutorily charged, and funded to preserve and provide public access to these important scientific and technical reports if NTIS-enabling legislation is eliminated.”

- A resolution on the importance of sustainable libraries, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
  1. recognizes the important and unique role libraries play in wider community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future and begins a new era of thinking sustainably in order to consider the economic, environmental and socially equitable viability of choices made on behalf of the association;
  2. enthusiastically encourages activities by itself, its membership, library schools and state associations to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, partnerships and library school curricula; and
  3. directs the ALA Executive Director to pursue sustainable choices when planning conferences and meetings and to actively promote best practices of sustainability through ALA publications, research and educational opportunities to reach our shared goal of vital, visible and viable libraries for the future.”

- A resolution on gun violence, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
  1. deplores the fun violence that materially affects libraries and the communities we serve; and
  2. will work with state chapters and affiliates to support legislation that allows the prohibition of the carrying of guns in or near libraries and other educational institutions.”
A resolution to improve access to Spanish, bilingual, and books in various languages for children in detention centers, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. urges ALA members and units to support the REFORMA Children in Crisis project for the continued delivery of books to refugee children and teens;

2. encourages the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop a partnership with the United States Customs and Border Protection agency to ensure that unaccompanied refugee children have access to books and programming in those children’s native languages, whether they speak Spanish, indigenous languages, or other tongues, and bilingual books;

3. urges libraries in affected areas to provide services and programs for and with detained minors while they are in the care of government-designated service providers; and

4. encourages ALA members, the Reference & User Services Association, and other relevant ALA units and affiliates to develop materials that meet the information and recreation needs of refugee children, teens, and their guardians, and to share that information with librarians in affected communities.”

In 2016, Council took the following actions:

• A resolution for restoring civil liberties and opposing mass surveillance, which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members and the public interest:

1. urges the President and Congress to amend all germane surveillance-enabling authorities, such as Executive Order 1233, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) as amended, and the USA PATRIOT Act, to:

   a. require government agencies to obtain judicial warrants before collecting any individual’s personal information from third parties and require court approval for National Security Letters:

2. raise the standard for government collection of all records under FISA from “reasonable grounds” to “probable cause” and sunset Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT ACT (commonly known as the “library records” section);

3. limit the government’s ability to use information gathered under intelligence authorities in unrelated criminal cases, thereby making it easier to challenge the use of illegally obtained surveillance information in criminal proceedings; and

4. prohibit the government from requiring hardware and software companies to deliberately design encryption and other security features to facilitate government access to information otherwise protected by such features;

2. recommits itself to leadership in the fight for restoration of the public’s privacy and civil liberties through statutory and other legal reforms; and

3. commends and thanks all parties, both inside and outside of government, involved in developing and securing passage of the USA FREEDOM Act, resulting in movement away from overbroad surveillance laws and practices for the first time in more than a decade.”

• A resolution on replacing the Library of Congress subject heading “Illegal Aliens” with “Undocumented Immigrants,” which read: “That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members urges the Library of Congress to change the subject heading Illegal aliens to Undocumented immigrants.”

• A resolution urging immediate ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind,
visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled, which read: “That
the American Library Association, on behalf of its members and
the public interest:
1. calls upon the United States Senate and its committees of
jurisdiction to immediately and concurrently take every
procedural step possible to both ratify the Marrakesh Treaty
and approve, with no amendment whatsoever, the Marrakesh
Implementation Act and its associated legislative history text;
2. urges the House of Representatives and its committee
of jurisdiction to take any and all appropriate steps to
immediately expedite consideration and passage of the
Marrakesh Implementation Act and its associated legislative
history text in unamended form; and
3. encourages the President to publicly speak out, on all appropriate
occasions, in support of the foregoing expedited Congressional
processes and rapid ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.”

♦ A Resolution on equity for school libraries for the Department of
Education making rules for ESSA, which read: “That the American
Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:
1. urges the United States Department of Education to address
equity issues while developing the ESSA legislation rules
regarding funding and staffing school libraries, and
2. shares the American Association of School Librarians’ position
statement on an effective school library program with the
United States Department of Education.”

♦ A resolution on equity for all in school libraries, which read: “That
the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:
1. Endorses the idea that every student have access to a well-
funded, effective school library program;
2. Advocates for equitable access to effective school library
programs with a certified school librarian, personalized
learning environments, and equitable access to resources;
3. Works with ALA research committees to document the impact
on students of well-funded, effective school library program,
particularly in minority and rural communities;
4. Advocates for equitable access to well-curated, high-quality,
and accessible electronic resources;
5. Encourages state departments of education and coalition
partners to establish and maintain funding of digital databases
and shared resources to provide greater equity of access in all
states and regions; and
6. Continues to encourage school librarians to apply for
Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants.”

And at the 2017 Midwinter Meeting, Council voted on:
♦ A resolution to amend the ALA Strategic Plan by adding a new
Strategic Direction: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.
♦ A resolution on gun violence affecting libraries, library workers,
and library patrons, which read: “That the American Library
Association (ALA) on behalf of its members:
1. grieves with the families and friends of all those victimized by
gun violence;
2. calls upon the Directors of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to:
♦ publicly announce that their respective agencies will resume
funding non-political, comprehensive research on causes
and effects of gun violence in the United States; ensure that
such research, and any uses to which such research is put
by the NIH or CDC, does not violate the ‘Dickey Amendment’
prohibition on the advocacy or promotion of gun control; and

- sponsor robust research for the dual purposes of ‘preventing firearm injuries’ and identifying ‘ways to prevent firearm deaths … without encroaching on the rights of legitimate gun owners’;

3. encourages libraries to collaborate with appropriate local agencies to provide training and education for library workers related to the presence of guns in the workplace; and

4. encourages libraries to support community discussions around all aspects of guns in society.”

- A resolution on access to accurate information, which read: “The American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms the resolution on disinformation, media manipulation and the destruction of public information approved in 2005;

2. opposes the use of disinformation, media manipulation, and other tactics that undermine access to accurate information;

3. encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead the public;

4. urges librarians and library workers to actively seek and provide sources of accurate information that counter disinformation;

5. supports the critical role of librarians and library workers of all types of libraries in teaching information literacy skills that enable users to locate information and evaluate its accuracy;

6. will pursue partnerships with news organizations, journalism institutions, and other allies to promote access to accurate information and defend the role of journalists and the free press in American society.”

The 2017 Council Ballot

This year, 85 candidates are running to fill 33 vacant Councilor-at-Large seats. Candidate biographies are available on the ALA website (PDF document).

The biographies are also available in a searchable Excel spreadsheet format on the ALA election website.
How Do I Vote?

To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members in good standing as of January 31, 2017. In mid-February, members received notification by email confirming their eligibility to vote.

In 2008, the American Library Association began holding its election exclusively online. The only exception is for members with disabilities and without Internet access. These individuals may obtain a paper ballot by contacting ALA customer service at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5. Those without Internet access at home or at work can easily access the election site by visiting their local public (or in many instances, academic or school) libraries. The ballot can also be accessed on your Smartphone and other devices.

The polls will open at 9:00 a.m. CDT on Monday, March 13. Over the three-day period of March 13–15, voters will be notified by email and will be provided with a unique passcode and information about how to vote.

The polls close on Wednesday, April 5 at 11:59 p.m. CDT. On April 12, the Election Committee will meet at the ALA offices to certify the election. Election results will be released following that meeting.
Interested in Running for Office?

The ALA Nominating Committee nominates candidates from among the general membership for the position of president-elect (annually), for the position of treasurer (every three years), and for members-at-large of Council (annually). ALA elections are held in the spring of each year with the results announced in the second Wednesday in April.

About the Nominations Process

The 2018 Nominating Committee began its work of selecting potential candidates for the 2018 ALA elections for President-elect and Councilor-at-Large at the 2017 Midwinter Meeting. The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2018 ALA Election are:

- **Michelle Jeske**, City Librarian, Denver Public Library, Denver, CO, (720) 865-2100, mjeske@denverlibrary.org
- **Helen Adams**, Retired School Librarian, Fremont, WI, (920) 677-4484, hadams1@centurytel.net
- **Maurice D. Coleman**, Specialist III — Technical Trainer, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD, (410) 273-5600 ext. 2281, colemanm@hcplonline.org
- **Vicki Coleman**, Dean of Library Services, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro, NC, (336) 285-4151, vcoleman7219@gmail.com
- **Regina H. Gong**, Head of Technical Services & Systems, Lansing Community College Library, Lansing, MI, (517) 483-1663, gongr1@lcc.edu
- **Beatriz Guevara**, Library Manager, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Charlotte, NC, (704) 716-6401, bguevara@cmlibrary.org
- **Jack Martin, Jr.**, Executive Director, Providence Public Library, Providence, RI, (401) 455-8000, hillias@gmail.com
- **Anne M. Prestamo**, Dean of Libraries, Florida International University, Miami, FL, (305) 348-3461, anpresta@fiu.edu
- **John F. Szabo**, City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA, (213) 228-7515, jszabo@lapl.org

You may contact any of the committee members if you are interested in being considered for candidacy in the 2018 election.

Petition Candidates

Individuals who are not selected by the Nominating Committee may run for office by completing a petition form with the signatures of no fewer than 25 ALA current personal members. Petitions must be created electronically by following the instructions on the ALA election page.

The petition form will become available on October 4, 2017.

All candidates, whether nominated or running by petition, must complete a Candidate Biographical Information form. The information provided on this form provides the basis for the ballot. Once on the ballot, there is no designation as to whether a candidate has been nominated or is running by petition.

Further Information

For further information about running for office, general election information, and links to press releases and various forms, please go to: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection).