GUIDE TO THE 2020 ELECTIONS
# Table of Contents

**Introduction** ............................................................................................................................................... 1

**The ALA President** .................................................................................................................................... 2  
  Presidential Initiatives ................................................................................................................................. 3  
  This Year’s Candidates ................................................................................................................................. 7

**ALA Council** .............................................................................................................................................. 8  
  What is Council? .......................................................................................................................................... 9  
  Council Composition ................................................................................................................................. 9  
  Council Responsibilities ............................................................................................................................. 10  
  Council “Mythbusters” .............................................................................................................................. 10  
  The 2020 Council Ballot ............................................................................................................................. 14

**How Do I Vote?** ......................................................................................................................................... 15

**Interested in Running for Office?** .......................................................................................................... 16  
  About the Nominations Process ................................................................................................................ 16  
  Petition Candidates .................................................................................................................................... 17  
  Further Information .................................................................................................................................... 17
Introduction

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 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.

More than 180 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. This year we will be electing 33 individuals to fill vacant three-year Council terms, as well as one individual to fill mid-term vacancies.

You may also be wondering about “petition candidates.” ALA has a Nominating Committee that slates individuals to run for the offices of president-elect 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.

This process is one hallmark of the Association’s openness. Once the petition process is completed, petition candidates and nominated candidates are treated exactly the same and are not differentiated on the ballot.

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 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!

Mary W. Ghikas
Interim 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 may develop presidential initiatives in keeping with the prevailing ALA messages and Strategic Plan. Here are some recent presidential accomplishments:

WANDA BROWN

Libraries are essential for the health of our democracy, our communities, and our future. The American Library Association’s (ALA) strength in representing and advocating for librarians and library workers is critical.

Over the course of my presidential year, I will work to promote both the value of libraries and ALA through a lens of social justice and inclusion.

First, I will embark on a project to understand the library’s role in addressing social and economic inequity. Forsyth County, North Carolina—where Winston-Salem State University is located and where I serve as director of library services—is one of the least economically mobile communities in the country. If you are born in poverty in Forsyth County, your chances of climbing the ladder of prosperity are dismally low.

I also know that economic advancement is possible. When I was a little girl, I was adopted by a man who could neither read nor write. He worked hard to gain those skills and better himself and his family’s life. His efforts inspired me throughout my life, including my career in librarianship.

I will convene selected ALA and external groups to discuss collaborative approaches and strategies to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately affects young men of color. I will create tools for use by libraries to help ensure that they serve as safe spaces for these vulnerable populations.

Second, I believe strongly in the opportunities and obligations inherent in being a member of ALA. I would not be where I am today without the guidance and mentorship of the Black Caucus of the ALA, as well as countless others who have taken time to encourage me along the way. Since this isn’t everyone’s experience, I’ve launched Finding Your ALA initiative. This initiative is about including all voices at the table. My goal is to connect students and new library staff with ALA and help them find a place within the Association that furthers their careers and their ambitions. My hope is to create a welcoming association that grows with the strengths and interests of its members. At the same time, the staffers who support the work of member leaders like me are experiencing a series of changes. To ensure they feel prepared to meet the needs of an evolving Association, I’m also using part of my presidential program to establish adequate change management training.

We have a busy year ahead and an ambitious agenda, but I am confident we can tackle big issues and effect real change. Thank you for trusting me to lead the Association during a challenging—and exciting—time for libraries, librarians, and library workers.
LOIDA GARCIA-FEBO

My service as President of the American Library Association began at the close of the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans. Over the past six months I visited libraries and had conversations with library workers across the USA and other countries. As I wrote in Serving with Love, my recent column for American Libraries magazine (AL), the renewed love for the communities we serve, makes me feel hopeful about the future of libraries. My other columns for AL include Libraries=Strong Communities, From Local to Global, and Immerse Yourself in Wellness.

These six months have been full of inspiring conversations about serving communities during my National Library Tour to advocate for libraries which so far has included Pikes Peak Library District in CO, Cambridge Public Library, Harvard and MIT Libraries in MA, Cranston High School East in RI, Seattle Public Library in WA, and North Miami Public Library in FL. My Global Tour which includes ALAs long standing commitments in other countries, included keynotes at the Guadalajara and Sharjah book fairs. It was very special to be the first ALA President to speak at the European Union Parliament to advocate for libraries.

I loved to speak at conferences in Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, Missouri, Oregon, the New England Library Association Conference in RI, and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in NM.

My advocacy efforts include revamping the Advocacy University website and a video series on using storytelling to effectively impact library advocacy at ala.org/advocacy.

In addition to revamping the ALA-APA Wellness Website with new information on eight wellness area, we coordinated a program for Midwinter: A Native Perspective on Trauma: Bridging Past, Present, and Possibilities. Next, webinars on microaggressions and a wellness pre-conference at the annual conference.

I am committed to providing library professionals with resources that support equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). News release on EDI efforts, here and another release, here ALA president reminds members of professional EDI tools to address microaggressions, quash racial profiling.

My Midwinter President’s Program speaker, Dr. Robin DiAngelo, discussed themes that should help us to understand what people can do to engage more constructively in conversations about racism. Videos on how to incorporate the EDI principles are underway.

Our ‘I am ALA’ spotlight highlights international members: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/i-am-ala-international-spotlight. Our webinars on international issues are available here: http://www.ala.org/rt/irrt/initiatives.

I am grateful to library workers, library advocates, my Advisory Board, ALA Executive Board and staff members for their collaboration and support.
JIM NEAL

The overarching theme for 2017–18 president James (Jim) Neal’s year was LIBRARIES TRANSFORM: LIBRARIES LEAD. There are five key components building on excellent work already advancing across the Association:

1. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion—Neal is focusing on outreach and pipeline development in high schools and colleges; expanding support for scholarship programs such as Spectrum; creating resident positions through the new Diversity Alliance; expanding financial support for attendance and participation in conferences; and creating new leadership development opportunities.

2. Leadership Development Programs—In this area, Neal plans to evaluate, expand and improve the wide range of leadership development programs across the Association, aimed at strengthening professional leadership in our institutions and organizations, in our communities, in our profession and the Association both domestically and internationally.

3. Advocacy/Activism for Library Support and Information Policies—Neal has formed a 12-member “ALA Policy Corps” cohort of library and information professionals who have a deep and sustained knowledge of national and public policies in areas key to ALA’s strategic plans. These individuals will have a voice in defending as well as shaping national policies that impact library patrons, the profession and the nation.

4. Partnerships and Working Relationships—Activities will take place to build expanded and more robust collaboration with organizations like the Library of Congress, national libraries, IMLS, Digital Public Library of America, etc. to advance our shared interests and clout and to develop cooperative programs and activities.

5. School Libraries and Knowledge Literacy—Neal’s goal is to continue advocating for school libraries as foundational to the health of our work to prepare students who are college and career ready.
JULIE TODARO

To further the success of ALA’s public awareness campaign, Libraries Transform, 2016-17 president Julie Todaro’s Libraries Transform: The Expert in the Library initiative focused on the librarian. Teams from all sectors of the library world—academic, public, school, and special libraries—worked together to find and create the best materials to design a 21st-century human resources “playbook” for the librarian of the future. This included 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 was 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.
**This Year’s Candidates**

Patricia “Patty” M. Wong, City Librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library, and Steven Yates, Assistant Director, University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, are the candidates for the 2021–22 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA).

**PATTY WONG**

Patty Wong is the city librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library. She also serves as part-time faculty at the San Jose State University iSchool and is the former director of library services, Yolo (Calif.) County Library (2008-2017). An active ALA member for 35 years, Wong has served several terms as at-large councilor (1996-2007, 2012-14) and as California Chapter councilor (2015-2017). Wong is currently in her second term on the ALA Executive Board, previously serving 2001-05. She has held numerous committee positions, including chair of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee. She is an active member of ALSC, LLAMA, PLA, United for Libraries, YALSA, the Social Responsibilities Round Table, Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, and the Rainbow Round Table. She is a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation and, as an Executive Board member, has worked with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Committee on Legislation and the Conference Committee.

Wong is a member of several ALA Professional affiliates, including the American Indian Library Association, Asian-Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of ALA, Chinese American Librarians Association and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

Wong has also supported ALA Presidential Initiative Planning as a co-chair for Barbara Stripling (2012-2014), Molly Raphael (2009-2011) and Camila Alire (2008-10), a contributor for Julie Todaro (2015-16), and a member for both James (Jim) Neal (2016-17) and Mary Somerville (1995-97).

In addition to her service to ALA, Wong currently serves as a Board Member for the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) (2014-present). She has served as a Board Member of the California Library Association (2015-2017), President of APALA (1999), Treasurer of USBBY (1995-1998), Board Member of CALA (1991-93), and President of CALA, California Chapter (1993).

Wong also is the recipient of several awards, including the 2012 ALA Equality Award, CALA Distinguished Service Award (2014), and Member of the Year, California Library Association (2012). She holds a BA in Women’s Studies and an MLIS, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

“Sustainability and resiliency are critical to ALA. I want to grow and activate the membership, so that leading from any position becomes a natural part of our culture. I will focus on the strengths of our membership and ALA staff, the value they contribute to our greater community, and will foster initiatives where everyone has a role and all are welcome. We are facing an evolution as an Association and I want to move ALA towards success, through collaboration, team building, and effective partnerships.”
STEVEN YATES

Steven Yates is an active member of AASL, ALSC, LLAMA, YALSA, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT), and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. He currently serves as a member of the second Policy Corps cohort, the ALA Executive Director Search Committee, 2019, and the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness, 2018-present. He served as AASL president in 2017-2018 and is a member of the 2010 class of ALA Emerging Leaders.

Additional ALA activities include serving as a member of ALA’s Advisory Committee for the National Legislative Network, 2019; Committee on Appointments, 2016-2017; Emerging Leaders program subcommittee, 2013-2015, and the ALA Committee on Diversity, 2013-2015; AASL: Chair, Leadership Development Committee, 2018-2019; member-at-large, Board of Directors, 2014-2016; board-elected representative to Executive Committee, 2015-2016; chair, Fall Forum 2014 Committee; National Conference 2013 Committee /Virtual Conference Subcommittee Chair; Professional Development Advisory Group, 2013-2015; Knowledge Quest Editorial Board, 2010-2013; and Annual Program Committee, 2011 and 2012.

At the local level, Yates was president of the Alabama Library Association, 2011-2012, and served as moderator of its young adult services roundtable, 2009-2010. For the Alabama School Library Association, he has served as treasurer (2007-2009). In the Tuscaloosa community, Yates currently serves on the board of the Krewe of Druids, an organization that raises funds for Five Horizons Health Services, an AIDS Service Organization, as well as a member of the volunteer allocation team for the United Way of West Alabama.

Yates earned a PhD in Instructional Leadership (Instructional Technology), University of Alabama, an EdS in Library Media, University of West Alabama, and an MLIS and BA in Geology and History, University of Alabama.

“I am humbled and excited to stand for election at this important time in the evolution of ALA,” said Yates. “Our profession has more work to do to ensure that our workforce reflects the communities we serve. I look forward to working alongside my fellow members in leading the association to harness the power of positive passion as we build cultural competence in our membership, maintain a strong national, state, and local policy and advocacy presence, all while sustaining member engagement through transparent volunteer opportunities.”

Video of the Presidential Candidates’ Forum at the 2020 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 within the policies 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 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 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 64 councilors whose terms expire in 2018, only 18 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 war in the Middle East or a crisis in a foreign land, most Council actions relate directly to library issues. Following is a partial list of actions taken by ALA Council in recent years.
IN 2017, COUNCIL VOTED ON:

» A resolution to amend the ALA Strategic Plan by adding a new Strategic Direction: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.

» A resolution establishing family/caregiver status as a protected class in ALA volunteer work, which read:
  1. Establishes “Family/Caregiver Status” as a protected class within the organization for purposes of volunteer work by members with the following provisions:
     ▪ No section of the organization shall use family status to jeopardize or sideline an individual’s path as a volunteer in the organization.
     ▪ Family status shall extend to any member’s children, spouse/partner, parents, or any other family member in a traditional or non-traditional sense.
     ▪ While an individual’s family status shall not be used to determine if a person shall be chosen for a committee or volunteer opportunity, the organization shall make every effort to make appropriate accommodations for persons with family status issues.
     ▪ While periods of appointment may not be changeable particularly for elected positions within the organization, absences at meetings will not be grounds for immediate loss of position.
  2. Values the contributions of its volunteer members and recognizes the importance of their families as motivators and assistants in the individual’s work in the organization.

» 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.”
» A resolution on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians, which read: “The American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes that human interactions and activities affect the dynamics of Earth’s climate system, and that there is a large and growing base of factual scientific data, information, and literature providing robust and accurate STE3M3 (scientific, technical, environmental/economic/ethical, medical/mathematical/management) evidence of global climate change;
2. affirms a commitment to the preservation and availability of this factual scientific data, information, and literature, both from government and citizen sources; and
3. supports librarians, library workers, and educators, as they are guided by the ALA Policy Manual, in their roles for providing rigorous, robust, and accurate reference and referral services; access to data (both historical and current) and information resources, literature, and collections; and instruction in their use in assisting climate stakeholders’ and library users’ greater understanding of global climate change.

» A resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces, which stated that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members,

1. urges libraries to embrace the mantle of responsible spaces by adopting and enforcing user behavior policies that protect patrons and staff from harassment while maintaining our historic support for the freedom of speech;
2. encourages libraries to develop community partnership programs with and promote services to underrepresented and unacknowledged community members;
3. encourages libraries to sponsor programs fostering meaningful and respectful dialogue in community; and
4. directs the Committee on Diversity, with the support of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the ODLOS Advisory Committee, to develop, provide, and disseminate materials and programming for libraries that deter hate, foster community, and oppose bigotry or oppression against any group.

IN 2018, COUNCIL VOTED ON:

» A resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation, which stated that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, and inhumanity of racially segregated libraries;
2. apologizes to African Americans for wrongs committed against them in segregated public libraries;
3. commends African Americans who risked their lives to integrate public libraries for their bravery and courage in challenging segregation in public libraries and in forcing public libraries to live up to the rhetoric of their ideals;
4. welcomes all African Americans to libraries, recognizing in particular those who were forced to use segregated libraries;
5. encourages libraries to defend, in their policies and in their actions, the ALA Code of Ethics principle 1—“We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests;” and will review policy documents and internal procedures to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles are reflected throughout; and be it further resolved that this resolution be printed in full in American Libraries and publicized widely via all media channels.
AT THE 2019 MIDWINTER MEETING, THE COUNCIL TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

» A resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship, which stated that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
   1. shall define sustainability using the “triple bottom line” conceptual framework: “To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”
   2. adopt “Sustainability,” as defined above, as a core value of librarianship.
   3. evolve accreditation standards to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.
   4. provide ALA members with the necessary knowledge and resources to inspire, cultivate and encourage active leadership in the application of the triple bottom line framework to guide decisions for the future of our society.

» A resolution on Eliminating Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity, which stated that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
   1. adds a statement to the Policy Manual that establishes that “The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services.”
   2. urges libraries to scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them; and
   3. urges governing bodies to fund [of] libraries [to strengthen funding support for libraries] so they are not dependent on monetary fines as a necessary source of revenue.

» A resolution in support of Civil rights Protections for People of Diverse Gender Identities, which stated that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:
   1. encourages libraries to defend those civil rights protections, in their policies, procedures, and their actions, in accordance with the first principle of the ALA Code of Ethics: “We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.”
   2. encourages libraries to create welcoming and inclusive spaces to meet the information needs of people of diverse gender identities, as well as create inclusive programs, projects, and events to support and demonstrate equality, inclusion and respect.
   3. reviews ALA policy documents and internal procedures to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles are reflected throughout and broadly communicated to the membership broadly; and be it further resolved that this resolution be printed in full in American Libraries and publicize widely via all media channels.
   4. creates avenues within existing ALA structures to highlight model policies as well as identify model training and educational opportunities for library staff and administrations that encourage the creation of all-inclusive spaces and provide an understanding of bias.

4. establish a working group to develop information resources, including strategies and tips, for libraries interested in abolishing fines, with a report due to Council at the 2019 Annual Conference
AT THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COUNCIL VOTED ON:

» Resolution on Renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal:
  ▪ Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members, rename the Melvil Dewey Medal to remove Melvil Dewey's association with the award. The Resolution will go to the Awards Committee for renaming and any structural changes to the award that need to be made.

» Resolution on Library Service for Children in Detention at Migrant Detention Centers
  1. Denounces the existence of family and youth detention centers;
  2. Denounces the ongoing deplorable conditions in family and youth detention centers;
  3. Denounces the removal of educational and recreational programming, such as storytimes, from youth detention centers and calls for the reestablishment of these programs;
  4. Urges libraries with detention centers in or near their service areas to reach out to and work with local authorities, schools, and governmental support agencies;
  5. Strongly encourages libraries to perform outreach and provide access to materials for both education and entertainment in a variety of formats and media in as many languages as possible as appropriate for the populations being served;
  6. Strongly encourages libraries and library workers to provide services to migrant families and reexamine their policies to resolve any barriers to access presented to the access to services.

» Resolution to support Digital Content Pricing for libraries
  1. Creates a joint working group of representatives from ALA, ULC, ASGCLA, COSLA, PLA, LITA, ALCTS, RUSA, SLA and other members to be determined to address library concerns with publishers and content providers specifically:
  ▪ to develop a variety of digital content license models that will allow libraries to provide content more effectively, allowing options to choose between one-at-a-time, metered, and other options to be made at point of sale;
  ▪ to make all content available in print and for which digital variants have been created to make the digital content equally available to libraries without moratorium or embargo;
  ▪ to explore all fair options for delivering content digitally in libraries;
  ▪ to urge Congress to explore digital content pricing and licensing models to ensure democratic access to information
  2. Develops an advocacy and public awareness campaign to provide accurate information about the true value of library purchasing of digital, all library materials to publishers.

The 2020 Council Ballot

This year, more than 70 candidates are running to fill 34 vacant Councilor-at-Large seats. Candidate biographies are available on the ALA website.
How Do I Vote?

To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members in good standing as of January 31, 2020. 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 access the election site by visiting their local libraries. The ballot can also be accessed on your Smartphone and other devices.

The polls will open at 9:00 a.m. Central Time on Monday, March 9. Over the three-day period of March 9–11, voters will be notified by email and will be provided with a unique URL and information about how to vote.

The polls close on Wednesday, April 1 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. On April 8, the Election Committee will meet at the ALA headquarters 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 2021 Nominating Committee began its work of selecting potential candidates for the 2021 ALA elections for President-elect and Councilor-at-Large at the 2020 Midwinter Meeting. The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2021 ALA Election are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candice (Wing-yee) Mack</td>
<td>Chair&lt;br&gt;Manager, System-wide Teen Services&lt;br&gt;Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA 90071&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:candice.yalsa@gmail.com">candice.yalsa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floyd Council</td>
<td>Executive Director&lt;br&gt;Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, AL 35203&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:floyd.council@birminghamal.gov">floyd.council@birminghamal.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skip Dye</td>
<td>SVP, Library Marketing &amp; Digital Sales; SVP Dir. Sales Operations&lt;br&gt;Penguin Random House, Lewes, DE 19958&lt;br&gt;sdyepenguinrandomhouse.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Dutton Ewbank</td>
<td>Associate Professor&lt;br&gt;Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59718&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:ann.ewbank@montana.edu">ann.ewbank@montana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldon Ray James</td>
<td>Researcher&lt;br&gt;Institutional Survey, Austin, TX 78703&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:erayjames@gmail.com">erayjames@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Spence Lappin</td>
<td>Deputy Director&lt;br&gt;Lebanon Public Libraries, Lebanon, NH 03776&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:amy.lappin@leblibrary.com">amy.lappin@leblibrary.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlene Laverde</td>
<td>Librarian&lt;br&gt;Townsend Harris High School Library, Jamaica, NY 11426&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:arlverde1@aol.com">arlverde1@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You may contact any of the committee members if you are interested in being considered for candidacy in the 2021 election or if you would like to recommend someone for consideration.

**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 for the position of Councilor-at-Large, or 200 personal members for the positions of President-elect.

All candidates, whether nominated or running by petition, completed 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).