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Introduction

Voting is one of the most important things you can do as a member of the American Library Association. The officers we elect, through their vision and leadership ability, have the potential to make a real difference.

The President of the Association serves as the public voice of the Association for libraries of all types across the nation and for American libraries around the world. The President represents us and the library users we serve, giving media interviews and speaking with dozens of groups each year. A new President-elect is elected every year.

Historically, more than 180 Councilors have been responsible for setting the broad policies that shape our Association's public positions and direction. Whether discussing intellectual freedom, universal broadband, racial equity, 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 34 individuals to fill vacant three-year Council terms.

You may 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. 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 our interests. Thus, our votes are very important.

This Online Election “Booklet” is designed to provide information and insights about ALA Officers and Council; Council FAQs and examples of Council’s recent resolutions; easy-to-find information about the candidates; and voting instructions and timeline.

Reviewing candidate information and voting is part of the voting process. An informed vote is powerful. We hope that you will be inspired by your direct role in guiding ALA’s future. Thank you for your stewardship!

Tracie Hall
ALA 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:

JULIUS C. JEFFERSON, JR. (2020-2021)

ALA is at a critical juncture in the history of our association and our country. As ALA President, I have focused my efforts on Advocacy, Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and the ALA Brand.

My term began with Holding Space, a 12-stop virtual advocacy tour to listen and lift up the essential work of Tribal, rural, academic, HBCU, school and public libraries around the nation, and focusing on those in underserved communities.

Along the way we spoke with innovators in libraries, their partners and elected leaders at every level of government. Throughout the year, we gathered support for additional relief funding for libraries through the Library Stabilization Fund Act, provided resources to engage voters and, after elections, engaged the new White House leadership in many ways, including submitting a letter to the Biden-Harris education transition team. ALA continues to advocate for additional relief funding as well as mobilize support for a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure funding for library construction in the new Build America’s Libraries Act.

I also started a new member offering, ALA Connect Live. The ALA Connect Live events have addressed important issues and engaged members on topics such as EDI, Advocacy, reopening libraries during COVID-19, intellectual freedom and the REALM project and a focus on LIS students.

We have had a variety of speakers from ALA Division leadership, committees and affiliates, as well as outside speakers like IMLS Director Crosby Kemper III and OCLC WebJunction Director Sharon Streams.

At the Virtual Midwinter Meeting, January 2021 we held a discussion group around EDI, a preview event of the Library Learning Experience (LibLearnX) Event. The program “Interrupting Inequities: Practicing Allyship in Action” examined how inequities persist in LIS, strategized ways to respond to microaggressions in real time, and explored how intervention strategies in common workplace scenarios may differ based on role.

As ALA President, my focus is also improving the ALA brand, by highlighting our most valued asset which is you - the 58,000 committed members. To be effective advocates, we must change the narrative of who we are. ALA members are and need to be recognized as technologically savvy, inclusive, innovative and passionate about serving our communities. Our brand must reflect our commitment to providing equitable access to information, serving as cornerstones in our respective communities. As ALA members we must strengthen relationships within our complex organizational structure by collaborating and communicating across the association, and removing existing silos that create divisiveness. This would require us to resolve the critical internal and external issues that affect our sustained future. We are stronger when we speak with one voice.
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-FEO (2018-2019)

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 ALA's 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.
This Year’s Candidates

ALA President-elect Candidates

Emily Drabinski, interim chief librarian at The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY), and Kelvin Watson, executive director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, are the candidates for the 2023-24 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA).

EMILY DRABINSKI

Drabinski has served as chair of the International Relations Committee (2020-21), ALA councilor-at-large (2018-20) and chair of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee (2019-20).

She is an active member of ACRL and Core (Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures). She is co-chair of the ACRL President’s Program Planning Committee (2020-21) and serves as reviews editor for College & Research Libraries. She is also a member of several round tables: the International Relations Round Table (IRRT), the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT), the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), the Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT), and the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT).

Drabinski is a member of several ALA affiliates: the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA), REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, the American Indian Library Association, the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, and the Chinese American Librarians Association.

Drabinski holds an MLIS from Syracuse University, a BA in political science from Columbia University and an MA in composition and rhetoric from Long Island University, Brooklyn.

“So many of us find ourselves at the ends of our worlds,” Drabinski said. “The consequences of decades of unchecked climate change, class war, white supremacy, and imperialism have led us here. If we want a world that includes public goods like the library, we must organize our collective power and wield it. The American Library Association offers us a set of tools that can harness our energies and build those capacities.

“I am honored to stand for election as president of this association. In this role, I will steward our shared resources on behalf of all of us who seek a better world. I know that world is possible, and I want to build it with you. I am humbled to ask for your vote.”
“America and our libraries continue to transform, and I’m humbled and honored by the possibility to represent you as an ALA presidential candidate,” Watson said. “We have always been a melting pot of nationalities, religions, ethnicities and gender identities, but historically, many of these segments have been blocked from realizing their full potential. By 2030, the U.S. Census predicts that immigration will become the primary source of growth, putting greater pressure on our schools to teach the literacy and tech skills needed in the 21st Century.

“All libraries will be called to fill this void, and I know that we can create a plan to address this coming need for new funding sources, exciting LIS educational and support staff opportunities, and new technologies that create efficiencies for ease of discovery and access.”

KELVIN WATSON

Watson co-chairs the ALA Digital Content Working Group and is on the ALA Business Advisory Group. He has served on the ALA Committee on Accreditation (2016-2017) and on an ALA Presidential Task Force. He was an ALA Spectrum Scholar (2006), a RUSA Spectrum Intern (2007-2008), and an AASL Member/Spectrum Scholar 2007.

He was a PLA director-at-large (2018-21) and holds membership in EMIERT and BCALA, which he served as president (2014-16), executive board member (2006-2018), fundraising chair (2008-10) and budget and finance chair (2010-12).

Watson also served on the Southeast Florida Library Network board of directors (2017-2021), the Metropolitan New York Library Council board of trustees (2015-17) and as co-chair of the Florida Library Association’s Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Task Force (2020-2021).

He currently serves on the board of the Book Industry Study Group (2018-21), was recently appointed to the Digital Public Library of America board, is a candidate for OCLC’s Global Council, and is a member of ALA’s Standards for Library Services for Incarcerated and Detained Individuals Working Group.

Watson holds an MLS from North Carolina Central University and a BS in business administration from Lincoln University (Missouri).
The ALA Treasurer

The individual elected to the position of ALA Treasurer will serve three years on the ALA Executive Board (2022-2025). The role of the ALA Treasurer is to:

- Recommend ALA financial policy to the Executive Board
- Approve elements of financial plans
- Suggest measures to build financial resources
- Review annual budget performance and recommend budget changes to the Executive Board
- Review the audit process and monitors the audit findings and recommendations
- Provide the Executive Board with interpretation of financial data needed for decisions
- Recommend to Council the approval of the annual estimate of income
- Provide input and raise questions on the preliminary Annual Budget presented by the Budget Analysis and Review Committee
- Assist in the selection of financial goals
- Provide guidance in program planning and budget analysis.
- Create and provide financial reports to members and committees, etc. on ALA’s financial status
- Monitor the Operating Agreement for Council
- Advise units on fiscal matters
- Recommend financial planning for the Association
- Serve as a member of the ALA Endowment Trustees

ALA Treasurer Candidate

This year’s candidate for 2022-2025 ALA Treasurer is Peter Hepburn, head librarian at the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, California.

PETER HEPBURN

Hepburn chaired the ALA Budget Analysis and Review Committee (2019-21) and was a member of the Executive Board (2016-2017) and the Finance and Audit Committee (2019-21) and an ALA Councilor at Large (2017-2020). He is currently serving as a member of the Committee on Organization (2021-23).

He is an active member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). He is involved with the Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table (GNCRT), the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT), the Rainbow Round Table (RRT), the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), the Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT), and the New Members Round Table (NMRT).

Hepburn holds an EdD from Arizona State University, an MLIS from McGill University, and a BA from the University of Victoria.

Hepburn said, “I am honored to be invited to stand for election. The financial health of ALA is a critical consideration for us as an association as we continue to deal with the repercussions from the pandemic, including membership levels, the ability to stage in-person conferences and other activities. Even before the crisis, however, ALA’s financial health had been cause for concern. For ALA to grow, we need to be on solid fiscal footing. That is key to the sustainability of ALA. As Treasurer, I will partner with the Executive Board, Council, divisions, round tables, and ALA staff to ensure that there is transparency around association processes, clear communication with the membership, and sound decision-making to carry the association forward.”
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 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 virtually and in-person at the ALA January 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.

For more information about ALA Council, please visit: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/basic-guide-ALA-council-and-resources

The 2022 Council Ballot

This year 68 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 sure to renew their membership by January 31, 2022. 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. 1. 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 mobile devices.

The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. Central Time on Monday, March 14, 2022. Over the three-day period of March 14–16, 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 6 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. On April 13, the Election Committee will meet 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 Nominating Committee for the 2023 Spring Election will begin its work of selecting potential candidates for President-elect and Councilor-at-Large. The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2023 ALA Election are:

- **Rebekkah Smith Aldrich**, Chair
  Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System
  Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
  rsmith@midhudson.org

- **Noah Beckman**
  Instruction & Reference Librarian, Gallaudet University
  Cheverly, MD
  noah.beckman@gallaudet.edu

- **Jackie Bryant**
  Assistant Professor, Library, Community College of Philadelphia
  Philadelphia, PA 19141
  jabryant02@gmail.com

- **Kenny Garcia**
  Research and Instruction Librarian, California State University, Monterey Bay
  Seaside, CA 93955
  kengarcia@csumb.edu

- **Richard Kong**
  Director, Skokie Public Library
  Skokie, IL 60077
  rkong@skokielibrary.info

- **Sandy Littletree**
  Assistant Teaching Professor, University of Washington
  Olympia, WA 98501
  slittletree@gmail.com

- **Matthew Noe**
  Lead Collection and Knowledge Management Librarian, Countway Library of Medicine
  Worcester, MA 01608
  Matthew_No@hms.harvard.edu

- **Susan Polos**
  Retired School Librarian, Librarian, Greenwich Country Day School
  Katonah, NY 10536
  suz.polos@gmail.com

- **Dr. Daniella Smith**
  Hazel Harvey Peace Endowed Professor, University of North Texas
  Denton, TX 76227
  dr.daniellasmith@gmail.com
You may contact any of the committee members if you are interested in being considered for candidacy in the 2023 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 and Treasurer.

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).