

A Letter from the Board of Trustees

Dear City of Albany resident:

Each year the Albany Public Library fulfills its mission to serve the citizens of Albany by expanding the number and variety of materials available for borrowing, and by providing educational and cultural programming, from storytimes for children to computer classes for seniors to independent film screenings.

Library use continues to grow. The library saw over 716,000 visits to its five locations in 2004. The number of registered borrowers increased by 10% and circulation figures were up by 12% from the previous year. Library customers who used the library's in-house electronic resources such as databases and access to the Internet increased by 9.5 % and APL reference librarians answered 21% more requests for information than the year before.

The Board of Trustees is completing a comprehensive facilities planning process to insure that the citizens of Albany have public library facilities and services that will meet their changing information needs into the future. We understand that the library's future rests on responding to the community's needs, so the board has created the Citizens' Library Advisory Committee to help with this process.

Here is the Library's proposed budget for 2006 to support library services to Albany residents. The Board of Trustees unanimously endorses this budget, which includes a 5% increase over the current budget. If approved, this would be the first budget increase since the library's rechartering in 2002. The increase primarily reflects contracted salary increases, increases in health care costs, and mandated increases in NYS retirement contributions. This increase would result in a tax rate of \$1.055 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from last year's \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The library budget vote will be held in conjunction with the City School District election on Tuesday, May 17, 2005. A public meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Main Library to give Albany residents an opportunity to respond to the proposed budget.

The Board would like to thank the people of Albany for their continued support of this vital institution and we look forward to providing you the high quality service you deserve.

Library Board Elections:

On Tuesday May 17, 2005 voters in the City of Albany will be asked to vote on the library budget and the election of three representatives to the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. Two of the vacancies will be filled for a full five-year term. The third vacancy arose as a result of a trustee's mid-term resignation and, in accordance with law, will fill only the unexpired balance of that trustee's term, which is two years. The seats with a five-year term will be filled by the candidates with the two highest vote totals. The seat with the unexpired two-year term will be filled by the candidate with the third-highest vote total.

For more information please contact ;
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