

# Advocacy Guide 2026



SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

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## Why Advocacy Matters

Building an effective advocacy network requires ongoing efforts by library staff, boards, and supporters. Every day, library advocates are called on to speak up about the value of libraries and help decision-makers understand how important libraries are to their community. Public libraries advocate to ensure that they have the resources they need to provide high-quality services to the community



Both your library and SALS depend upon state taxpayer-based funding. NYS Library Aid is allocated each year based on Education Law formulas. State funding comprises 94% of SALS funding, and the infrastructure SALS provides to enable 34 libraries to share resources and costs they cannot afford individually.

## 2026 Legislative Priorities

### NYLA's FY 2027 State Budget Requests

#### Library Operating Aid: \$181.3 million

Library Operating Aid, also known as State Aid for Libraries, is statutory funding for use by each library type and system. State aid is leveraged by regional library systems to support eBook access, interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation, and other resource sharing activities.

Despite small increases over the last two years, Library Operating Aid has been underfunded by over \$207 million since FY 1992, with over \$155 million of that total occurring since FY 2009. When coupled with rising operational costs, this underfunding means increased aid is needed to support New York State libraries so they can continue improving the lives of residents of all ages, abilities and economic status. Adequate funding is needed to support school, public, and academic libraries and library systems.

- [History of Library Aid Chart](#)
- [Impact of Underfunding](#)

## **Library Construction Aid: \$175M**

Library Construction Aid refers to funds allocated annually in the state budget for the use of public libraries and systems for construction, renovation, rehabilitation, or acquisition of new space. Other eligible or unique projects include broadband installation, emergency generators, and security systems. Unfortunately, while the New York State Library estimates a whopping \$1.75B in the deferred construction needs across all New York libraries, the state has never allocated more than \$44 million in annual construction aid for libraries.

Over half of New York's libraries are over 60 years old. Increased investment is needed to maintain and modernize the physical infrastructure of New York State's libraries, ensuring New Yorkers have safe, accessible, and sustainable libraries for generations to come.

- [History of Construction Aid Chart](#)

## **Library Materials Aid: \$11.33/pupil**

Library Materials Aid (LMA) is a category of Instructional Materials Aid, along with Textbook, Software, and Computer Hardware & Equipment Aid. It is intended to supplement local funds budgeted for school library program support. LMA is allocated to school districts via reimbursement, with a maximum award set by law as \$6.25 per public and non-public school student residing within a school district's boundaries.

The per-pupil rate of \$6.25 has remained stagnant since 2007. We are seeking an increase to the rate to reflect general inflation and the rising costs of materials in school libraries.

In FY 2027, NYLA seeks to build on efforts in FY 2025 and FY 2026 that saw both the Assembly and Senate include increasing the statutory per-pupil reimbursement rate to at least \$11.33 in their One House budget proposals. New York cannot allow two decades to pass without increasing its investment in student access to library materials.

## **NOVELny: \$3.1M**

Established in 2000 and facilitated by the New York State Library, NOVELny is a curated collection of databases and resources. It offers access to hundreds of academic journals,

magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research, and reference materials available to all New York residents free of charge.

Since its inception, NOVELny has been of particular use in the school setting, where it has become an embedded resource with over two decades of integration in lesson plans and curriculum maps in school districts statewide. Unfortunately, without the advantages offered by state contract rates and central purchasing, the cost of obtaining the resources provided by NOVELny would be prohibitive for many school districts, public libraries, and academic libraries across our state.

All New Yorkers, regardless of age, socioeconomic standing, or local funding, deserve equitable access to reliable, reputable information resources that allow them to be lifelong learners and informed citizens. Building on the successful campaign to save NOVELny from funding-related termination via the inclusion of \$3 million in both the FY 2025 and FY 2026 state budgets, NYLA is advocating for \$3.1 million in FY 2027 to ensure no resources are lost due to annual cost increases.

### **Cultural Education Fee: \$30**

The primary source of operational funding for the New York State Office of Cultural Education, including the New York State Library, State Archives, State Museum, Summer School of the Arts, and Public Broadcasting Program, is the Cultural Education Account. The account is funded by the Cultural Education Fee, a one-time fee collected by county clerks and clerks for the City of New York for the recording, entering, indexing, or endorsing certain instruments. The current fee of \$15 was set in 2002 and has not increased in 23 years, despite core costs like wages and employee benefits more than doubling in that period. As such, the account runs a chronic deficit, forcing the state to offload responsibility for 55 of the NYSL's 84 positions to funding received via the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States program.

NYLA supports increasing the Cultural Education Fee to \$30 per transaction as a way to stabilize the Office of Cultural Education and maintain a fully operational State Library, both now and in the future.

- [Download NYLA's FY 2027 Budget Requests Flyer](#)

## **2026 Policy Priorities**

### **Intellectual Freedom**

Key Legislation to Support: [Open Shelves Act - S.1100-A \(May\)/A.3119-B \(Kelles\)](#) - [NYLA Memo of Support](#)

Libraries across our state face rapidly expanding efforts to censor materials and programming they deem objectionable based on subjective personal sensibilities and partisan ideologies. We require legislation that empowers library professionals to exercise their expertise and ensure public access to materials, services, and programs that represent their interests.

NYLA supports and helped craft the Open Shelves Act (S.1100-A/A.3119-B). In its present form, the Open Shelves Act would include in the state's Standards of Library Service a requirement that libraries adopt policies and procedures that ensure library staff are able to curate and develop collections, services, and programming in a manner consistent with the values and protections established under the Human Rights Law under Article Fifteen of the Executive Law and the Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution.

The legislative intent of this bill, included in its text, states:

*It is the sense of the legislature that public libraries are essential to ensuring broad access to information, fostering informed citizenship, intellectual exploration, and imagination. By ensuring that library collections, services, and programming reflect diverse experiences and perspectives, the legislature seeks to maintain libraries as spaces where all members of the community can engage with the marketplace of ideas, promoting open access to information and points of view. Librarians are professionals trained to curate robust collections that serve the full spectrum of their communities, and this legislation affirms the state's trust in their ability to do so.*

## **eBooks Licensing Reform**

Key Legislation to Support: [A.3589 \(Carroll\)](#) - [NYLA Memo of Support](#)

Interest in electronic materials, specifically eBooks and eAudiobooks, spiked at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and, according to data released last month as part of the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services' annual Public Libraries Survey, circulation has only continued to grow in the years since. Attempts to keep up with increasing user demand for eBooks have been throttled by an industry-specific pricing model that precludes libraries from accessing materials on terms equal to those afforded to the general public.

Rather than allowing libraries to purchase eBooks on equal terms with individual consumers, they are largely restricted to limited licenses that cost exponentially more than print materials or even private purchases of the same e-content. These temporary licenses typically expire after fixed periods of time or once a particular number of circulations is reached, whichever occurs first. As such, libraries must continuously re-license materials to maintain access. This situation strains already limited budgets, prevents the development of stable collections of eBooks and eAudiobooks, and prices many libraries out of satisfying patron demand for those materials.

If enacted, **A.3589** would require that any contract between libraries and publishers who offer electronic books (eBooks and eAudiobooks) be governed by the laws of New York State under its authority to regulate intrastate commerce. Additionally, it would establish a list of provisions prohibited from inclusion in said contracts, thereby affording library patrons across our state equitable access to the content they seek.

## **Media Literacy in New York State**

**Media Literacy education** is an instructional discipline that teaches students how to apply critical thinking, reading, and reflection skills as they engage with our ever-evolving information and media landscape.

In New York's school libraries, Certified Library Media Specialists have utilized their unique credentials as experts in both education and information science to lead the way in development and delivery of media literacy education. As information technology advances and use of artificial intelligence continues to alter the digital landscape, Media Literacy instruction and the expertise of our school librarians will only grow in importance.

As such, NYLA is working to develop and pursue legislation that expands Media Literacy education in New York schools and solidify the role of Certified Library Media Specialists as leaders in the discipline.

## **Civil Service Reform**

Across New York, persistent issues within Civil Service for the field of librarianship are undermining the recruitment and retention of library staff. As such, NYLA is revisiting still unrealized Civil Service priorities from past legislative sessions to identify specific amendments to current processes and protocols to target in 2026.

- [Download NYLA's 2026 Legislative Priorities Flyer](#)

There are nearly a dozen other initiatives that NYLA is currently researching, drafting, and advocating for. Please contact [advocate@nyla.org](mailto:advocate@nyla.org) for more information on any additional priorities that NYLA is pursuing.

# Advocacy Checklist

Advocacy is a year-round activity; make sure you keep in contact with your local officials to build positive working relationships with them.

- Add your legislators to your mailing list
- Follow them on Facebook & X and hope they follow your library in return. Share their posts and post on their wall. On Twitter (X) start a conversation or give them “shout outs”; on Instagram don’t forget to #hashtag
- Invite them to visit you in person for a library tour or an event. Make sure there are a lot of people expected to attend the event for photo opportunities. A Summer Reading event is often the perfect opportunity since the legislative session normally concludes in early July.
- Join SALS at the Library Advocacy Day in Albany to meet with your legislators in person. SALS provides limited free transportation to this annual event held in February.
- Document and celebrate how essential your library is with Snapshot Day in February.
- Write/call legislators a few times each year and always send thank you notes when you get a response.
- Post a “Contact your Officials” button and “[Library Value Calculator](#)” on your website and Facebook during legislative alerts
- Get the local media involved: Write letters to the editor (trustees too) and ask the paper to support libraries with an editorial.
- Use the PLA’s [Outcome Measurement for Public Libraries](#) results to tell your story.

## NYS Legislative Districts by Library Location

Library	Assembly District	Senate District
<b>Argyle Free Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Ballston Spa Public Library</b>	112 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Bolton Free Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Brant Lake -Horicon Free Public Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Ballston Community Library</b>	112 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Cambridge Public Library</b>	107 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Chestertown - Town of Chester Public Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library</b>	112 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Corinth Free Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Easton Library</b>	107 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Fort Edward Free Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Galway Public Library</b>	112 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Glens Falls - Crandall Public Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup> & 114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Granville - Pember Library and Museum</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Greenwich Free Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Hudson Falls Free Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Inlet - Town of Inlet Public Library</b>	118 <sup>th</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Indian Lake - Town of Indian Lake Public Library</b>	118 <sup>th</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lake George - Caldwell Lake George Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Rockwell Falls Public Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Lake Pleasant – Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library</b>	118 <sup>th</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Long Lake – Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Long Lake Public Library</b>	118 <sup>th</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Malta – Round Lake Library/Malta Branch</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mechanicville – Mechanicville District Public Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>North Creek – Town of Johnsbury Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Raquette Lake Free Library</b>	118 <sup>th</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Round Lake Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Salem – Bancroft Public Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Saratoga Springs – Saratoga Springs Public Library</b>	112 <sup>th</sup> 113 <sup>th</sup> 114 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Saratoga Springs – Southern Adirondack Library System</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Schuylerville Public Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Stillwater Free Library</b>	113 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Stony Creek Free Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Warrensburg –Richards Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Waterford Public Library</b>	108 <sup>th</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Whitehall Free Library</b>	114 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>

\* Clifton Park Halfmoon and Saratoga Springs Public Libraries service area is split into two districts.

# New York State Assembly

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

## District 107:



### **Assemblyman Scott Bendett (Republican)**

[bendetts@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bendetts@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Scott-Bendett/>

Scott, a business owner with more than 25 years of experience, is the founder of Habana Premium Cigar Shoppe. His small-business success story started with a few cigars and a small kiosk at the mall before growing into an international online marketplace. In addition, Scott is the CEO of Bendett Investment Group, a real estate development corporation. He has dedicated countless hours as a counselor and mentor to numerous business ventures and non-profit organizations.

**Committees:** Member of Committees on Aging Insurance; Racing & Wagering; Small Business; Transportation; & Task Force on Food, Farm, and Nutrition Policy.

**Priorities:** Small business.

**Year elected:** 2022

**Libraries in District** Cambridge Public Library & Easton Public Library

**Local Office** 1580 Columbia Turnpike Building 4, Suite 1A Castleton on the Hudson, NY 12033

**Local Phone** 518-272-6149

**Albany Office** LOB 533, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** 518-272-6149

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/scott.bendett>

**Twitter** [@ScottBendettNY](https://twitter.com/ScottBendettNY)

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## District 108:

### Assemblyman John T. McDonald (Democrat)

[bendetts@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bendetts@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/John-T-McDonald-III>



Former Mayor of the City of Cohoes, President of Marra's Pharmacy in Cohoes. Earned his BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences and awarded a Doctorate of Humanity.

**Committees:** Chair of Committee on Governmental Operations. Member of Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Health;

Ways and Means.

**Priorities:** His focus is on local government, healthcare, and small business; as well as working on the issues that affect households across our state including taxes, jobs, education, and healthcare.

**Year elected:** 2013

**Libraries in District** Waterford Public Library

**Local Office** (none)

**Local Phone** (none)

**Albany Office** LOB 625, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-4727

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JohnTMcDonaldIII/>

Twitter [@johnmcdonald108](https://twitter.com/johnmcdonald108)

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## District 112

### Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh (Republican)

[walshm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:walshm@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Mary-Beth-Walsh>



She has been a practicing attorney for more than 25 years, most recently served as Saratoga Assistant County Attorney, and the Town of Edinburg Attorney.

**Committees:** Assembly Minority Leader Pro Tempore in 2025, previously serving as the Assistant Minority Leader Pro Tempore since 2020, she currently sits on the Judiciary and Ways and Means committees. Walsh is also the Secretary of the American Irish Legislators Society and is a director of the bicameral, bipartisan Legislative Women's Caucus.

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**Priorities:** Ethics reform, tax cuts, de-regulation, financial aid, education reform, children, middle-class

**Year elected:** 2016

**Libraries in District** Ballston Spa Public Library, Ballston Community Library, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, Galway Public Library, Saratoga Springs Public Library

**Local Office** 199 Milton Ave, Suite 2 Ballston Spa, NY 12020

**Local Phone** (518) 884-8010

**Albany Office** LOB 446, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-5772

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/marybethforassembly>

**Twitter** [@MBWalsh112](https://twitter.com/MBWalsh112)

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## District 113

### Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner (Democrat)

[woernerc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:woernerc@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Carrie-Woerner>



Was vice president and general manager of MeetMax Conference Software, a division of The Wall Street Transcript. She established the software division in Saratoga Springs in 2008. 30-year career in software and technical writing working at firms such as Dell/Perot Systems and IBM. Earned her MBA

**Committees:** Chairs, Subcommittee on Agriculture Production and Technology. Sits on Committees on Agriculture; Local Governments; Racing and Wagering; Small Business; Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development; Rural Resources; Women’s Caucus; and Task Force on Women’s Issues.

**Priorities:** Advocates for responsible spending and is focused on improving the business climate for small businesses and farms, strengthening public schools, and protecting the traditions, heritage and culture of Saratoga and Washington counties.

**Year elected:** 2014

**Libraries in District** Crandall Public Library, Fort Edward Free Library, Greenwich Free Library, Hudson Falls Free Library, Round Lake Library and Malta Branch, Mechanicville District Public Library, Bancroft Public Library, Saratoga Springs Public Library, Southern Adirondack Library System (headquarters), Schuylerville Public Library, Stillwater Free Library

**Local Office** 112 Spring Street, Suite 205 Saratoga Springs 12866

**Local Phone** (518) 584-5493

**Albany Office** LOB 845, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-5404

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/carrie.woerner>

**Twitter** [@AMCarrieWoerner](https://twitter.com/AMCarrieWoerner)



## District 114

### Assemblyman Matthew Simpson (Republican)

[SimpsonM@nyassembly.gov](mailto:SimpsonM@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Matthew-Simpson>

Grew up in the North Country and was first elected to the public office in 2011 when he won a seat on the Horicon Town Board. Two years later, he was elected Town Supervisor where he served until his election to the Assembly. Prior to public service, Matt was a small business owner for more than 30 years in the construction trades industry.

**Committees:** Member of Committees on Environmental Conservation; Local Governments; Social Services; and Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development; Governmental Operation; and Commission on Solid Waste Management.

**Priorities:** Worked to rein in out-of-control spending, fought for lower taxes, eliminated burdensome unfunded mandates, and improved the state's failing infrastructure. Matt will continue to advocate for better resources for law enforcement while making public safety a priority; protect the state's vibrant state parks; gain financial support for local businesses; hold the government accountable for lack of transparency; and work to keep money in the pockets of hard-working taxpayers.

**Year elected:** 2020

**Libraries in District** Argyle Free Library, Bolton Free Library, Horicon Free Library, Town of Chester Public Library, Corinth Free Library, Pember Library and Museum, Caldwell-Lake George Library, Rockwell Falls Public Library, Town of Johnsbury Library, Saratoga Springs Public Library, Stony Creek Fee Library, Richards Library, Whitehall Free Library

**Local Offices** 4 Southwestern Avenue Suite 3 Queensbury, NY 12804

**Local Phone** 518-792-4546

**Albany Office** LOB 426, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-5565

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/matthew.j.simpson.39>

**Twitter**

## District 118

### Assemblyman Robert Smullen (Republican)

[smullenr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:smullenr@nyassembly.gov)

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Robert-Smullen>



Retired Marine, with 24 years of service and 3 tours in Afghanistan. Also running for NY 21<sup>st</sup> District for the House of Representatives.

<https://www.robertsmullenforcongress.com/>

**Committees:** Member of Committees on Banks; Environmental Conservation; Higher Education; Ethics and Guidance; Veteran's Affairs; Ways & Means; and Rural Resources.

**Priorities:** Lower taxes, lessen regulations to strengthen the state's economy and protect our liberty. He is committed to providing support for veterans and active service military personnel, drafting legislation aimed at protecting vulnerable New Yorkers.

**Year elected:** 2018

**Libraries in District** Town of Indian Lake Public Library, Town of Inlet Public Library, Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library, CVW Long Lake Public Library, Raquette Lake Free Library

**Local Office** Fulton County Office Building 223 West Main Street, Suite B-2 Johnstown, NY 12095

5659 State Route 5 Suites 1-3 Herkimer, NY 13350

**Local Phone** (518) 762-1427

315-866-1632

**Albany Office** LOB 635, Albany, NY 12248

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-5393

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/SmullenAssembly/>

**Twitter** [@smullenNewYork](https://twitter.com/smullenNewYork)

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# New York State Senate

<http://nysenate.gov>

## District 43:



### Senator Jacob Ashby (Republican)

[ashby@nysenate.gov](mailto:ashby@nysenate.gov)

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/jacob-ashby>

A former Army Reserves Captain, Senator Ashby completed combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and deployed in support of a humanitarian mission in Africa. Jake worked as an occupational therapist for twenty years. He was a rehabilitation director and operated his own community-based practice. Additionally, he taught healthcare at Maria College.

**Committees:** Ranking member on Aging; and Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs. Member of Administrative Regulations Review Commission; Disabilities; Health; and insurance.

**Priorities:** Voted to expand counseling, job training and immigration services for veterans and their families. His proposals to spark housing development, crack down on retail crime, regulate AI and address our healthcare workforce shortage have garnered bipartisan support in both houses of the Legislature. He's delivered record state aid for local infrastructure, including road and bridge repair and clean water funding.

**Year elected:** 2022

**Libraries in District** Argyle Free Library, Cambridge Public Library, Easton Library, Fort Edward Library, Pember Library, Greenwich Free Library, Bancroft Public Library

**Local Office** 594 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061

**Local Phone** (518) 471-2751

**Albany Office** LOB 517, Albany, NY 12247

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-6958

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorJakeAshby>

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**District 45:**  
**Senator Dan Stec (R, C, I)**

[stec@nysenate.gov](mailto:stec@nysenate.gov)

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/daniel-g-stec>

Senator Dan Stec is a North Country native, Navy veteran and Adirondack 46er. Holds a BS in Chemical Engineering. Served for eight years in the U.S. Navy's nuclear power program. He was then elected Town Supervisor for five terms and chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors for two terms. In 2012, he was elected to the New York State Assembly where he served four terms.

**Committees:** Ranking member on Environmental Conservation; and Internet & Technology. Also, member of committees on Education; Health; Rules; State-Native American Relations; and Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

**Priorities:** Fighting for better broadband and cell service, supporting our upstate schools and hospitals and proposing initiatives to help our economy recover from the pandemic. He's also been a strong voice for public safety reforms, calling for a full repeal of bail reform and working with our corrections officers to advocate for a repeal of the HALT Act.

**Year elected:** 2020

**Libraries in District** Bolton Free Library, Horicon Free Library, Town of Chester Public Library, Crandall Public Library, Hudson Falls Free Library, Caldwell-Lake George Library, Rockwell Falls Public Library, Town of Johnsbury Library, Stony Creek Fee Library, Richards Library, Whitehall Free Library

**Local Office** 5 Warren Street, Suite 3, Glens Falls 12801

**Local Phone** (518) 743-0968

**Albany Office** LOB 408, Albany, NY 12247

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-2811

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorDanStec>

**Twitter** [@danstec](https://twitter.com/danstec)

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## District 44:



### **Senator James Tedisco (Republican, Conservative)**

[tedisco@nysenate.gov](mailto:tedisco@nysenate.gov)

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/james-tedisco>

Educator. B.A. in Psychology (Union), Graduate degree in Special Education (St. Rose). While at Union College, Tedisco received numerous athletic awards for his talent on the basketball court, as well as other collegiate and civic awards for academics, character, community service and conduct. He served as a special education teacher, guidance counselor, coach and athletic director for about ten years. Member of the Sons of Italy Schenectady Lodge 321, Ballston Spa Elks Lodge No. 2619, Schenectady Rotary Club, Union College Alumni Association, and the Center for HOPE in Ballston Spa.

**Committees:** Ranking member on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation; Education; and Racing, Gaming and Wagering. Also, member of committees on Libraries; and New York City Education.

**Priorities:** Animal cruelty, tax cap, farming industry, environment/sustainability, driver safety, children safety, government reforms

**Year elected:** 1982, Minority Leader 2005-2009 (Assembly), 2016 Senate

**Libraries in District** Ballston Spa Public Library, Ballston Community Library, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, Corinth Free Library, Galway Public Library, Round Lake Library and Malta Branch, Mechanicville Public Library, Saratoga Springs Public Library, Schuylerville Public Library, Stillwater Public Library

**Local Office** 636 Plank Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Clifton Park 12065

**Local Phone** (518) 885-1829

**Albany Office** LOB 515, Albany, NY 12247

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-2181

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/JamesTedisco/>

**Twitter** [@JamesTedisco](https://twitter.com/JamesTedisco)

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**District 49:**

**Senator Mark Walczyk (R,C)**

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/mark-walczyk>

Graduated from University of Albany, studied Political Science. He represented the 116th Assembly District in 2018. Patriot, Buffalo Bills fan, Eagle Scout, Ironman, NY Senator.

**Committees:** Ranking member on Cities-2; Elections; and Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. Also, member of committees on Banks; Energy and Telecommunications; Housing, Construction and Community Development; and

Internet and Technology.

**Priorities:** Families, corruption, promotes the economy as well as the future of our region and defends the Constitution.

**Year elected:** 2023

**Libraries in District** Town of Inlet Public Library, Indian Lake Public Library, Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Long Lake Public Library, and Raquette Lake Free Library.

**Local Office** 317 Washington Street Dulles State Office Building, Suite 418  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Local Phone** 315-782-3418

**Albany Office** LOB 302, Albany, NY 12247

**Albany Phone** (518) 455-3438

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/mark.walczyk.77>

**Twitter** <https://x.com/MarkWalczyk>

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## Governor

**Kathy Hochul**

Lawyer. Juris Doctor degree

**Year Elected:** 2022 but assumed office in 2021

**Office** NYS State Capitol Building, Albany

12224

**Phone** (518) 474-8390

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/govkathyhochul>

**Twitter** [@GovHochulNY](https://twitter.com/GovHochulNY)

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## Lieutenant Governor

**Antonio Delgado**

Lawyer. Juris Doctor degree

**Year Elected:** 2022

**Office** NYS State Capitol Building, Albany 12224

**Phone** (518) 474-8390

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LtGovDelgado>

**Twitter** [@LtGovDeldado](https://twitter.com/LtGovDeldado)

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# United States Representatives



## Senate

Charles "Chuck" Schumer -- Senior Senator



Kristen Gillibrand – Junior Senator

## House



NY 20th District  
Paul Tonko



NY 21st District  
Elise Stefanik

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# County Legislature

- [Hamilton County Board of Supervisors](#)
- [Saratoga County Board of Supervisors](#)
- [Warren County Board of Supervisors](#)
- [Washington County Board of Supervisors](#)

# Protocols for Meeting with Legislators

## 1. Be on Time and Prepared

Legislators are busier than most folks and often have multiple appointments and time commitments in a day. Being prompt allows you more time with the legislator to get your points across. Being prepared is essential to getting your message across; rehearse ahead of time what you are going to say, bring materials from NYLA's website, and information available from other reliable sources that backs up your statements. If you have any questions about what to say or how to say it, please do not hesitate to email or call SALS' Executive Director Kim Bolan at [kbolan@sals.edu](mailto:kbolan@sals.edu) or (518) 584-7300.

## 2. First Impressions

The first thing you should say is "thank you" for being a library supporter. Most legislators are part of the silent majority that support libraries, or have given member items to local libraries or supported increased funding for schools. The purpose of the advocacy is to get them to convert their silent support into a more active and visible role, like speaking up in conference (meetings with their fellow senators or assemblymembers of the same political party) or writing letters to their legislative leadership (i.e., the speaker or majority leader).

## 3. Roles of Advocates

If you are going to see a legislator with a group of colleagues, try to bring a diverse group of constituents, i.e., public, school, academic library personnel. Someone should be appointed to be the meeting facilitator, who speaks first, introduces folks, designates certain members to speak on particular issues of expertise and wraps up the meeting. Another advocate should be designated the note taker, who records what happened at the meeting and the legislator's response. This person should also record any additional information that needs to be sent to the legislator or follow-up taken by NYLA.

## 4. Meeting Tone

Advocates are there to educate legislators about the issues and not to berate or lecture them. Remember that honey always works better than vinegar. You want to educate them about the lack of adequate state funding for libraries and what that means to their local public libraries, library systems, school libraries and academic/research libraries. Never get belligerent or angry. You can express frustration and disappointment at the lack of proper funding for libraries, but do not get mad at the legislator.

## 5. Stay on Message

Many legislators like to talk about their involvement with libraries, or how they know someone involved in libraries, and that is fine and can be helpful if you are able to make a personal connection with the legislator (i.e., legislator's cousin works in your library or their son is a student in member's school, etc.). However, do not let too much of your limited meeting time be used to talk about these pleasantries. You need to bring the conversation politely back to your message of wanting the legislator to take action in support of additional funding for libraries.

#### 6. Leave on a Positive Note

As you wrap up the conversation, make sure you repeat one last time what action you hope the legislator will take and then thank them for meeting with you and their past support for libraries. Also make sure you leave them any written material you brought that backs up your point of view.

#### 7. Follow-Up

Follow-up is key to successful grassroots advocacy efforts. The meeting facilitator should send a thank you note to the legislator for meeting with them and include any additional information the legislator requested.

# Sample Post-Meeting Thank You Letter

March 15, 2026  
Assembly Member  
Room 123 LOB  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblymember,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our group of library supporters on Library Advocacy Day, February 3, 2026. We appreciate the interest and the feedback that you were able to provide. We know that you are facing the very difficult challenge of getting New York moving forward on a stable fiscal platform, and we want you to know that New York's libraries and library systems are now, and will continue to play, an important role in that process.

We know that you understand that libraries are essential for all New Yorkers for the work they do every day in employment assistance, small business support, early childhood education, and connecting all New Yorkers to the digital world. We know that you appreciate that library systems are the foundation of the network that connects all New York's libraries to all New Yorkers. We need your help to ensure that libraries and library systems are able to continue to serve as models of resource sharing and collaboration, and that they are supported at realistic and appropriate funding levels.

We urge the Assembly to demonstrate that they value New York's libraries by advocating for an increase in statewide library aid. We look forward to supporting you and your Assembly colleagues in making a positive difference for libraries in this year's budget negotiations.

If you have questions or would like to visit any of our member libraries to witness for yourself the transformative work being done in your district every day, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to make those connections for you.

Thank you for your caring and committed service to your constituents and most of all thank you for your support in our efforts to keep libraries and library systems working for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

# Sample Post-Meeting Thank You Letter

November 10, 2027

Senator

Room 123 LOB

Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the [library name], I want to thank you for providing \$[amount] of funding via FY2019-20 Bullet Aid.

This funding recognizes the important role that [library name] plays in our community, from helping people to find jobs to offering free cultural programs and reading materials to families looking to save money.

Your support demonstrates that your understanding that the library serves as a cornerstone of the community, and that it can continue to thrive only if provided with adequate funding.

We look forward to working with you during the 2020 Legislative Session to advance the library community across New York State.

Sincerely yours,

Your Name

Title

# Advocacy Resources

## **New York State**

[NYLA Action E-List Signup](#)

[Protect NY Libraries](#)

[New Yorkers for Better Libraries](#)

[New York Library Association: Advocacy](#)

## **National**

[Public Library Association: Turning the Page](#)

[American Library Association: Advocacy and Legislation](#)

[Cultivating Your Local Notables Toolkit](#)

[Frontline Advocacy Toolkit](#)

[Libraries Change Lives](#)

[EveryLibrary.org](#)

[ILoveLibraries.org](#)

## **Organizations**

[New York Library Association](#)

[Library Trustee Association](#)

[United for Libraries](#)