



WESTERN NEW YORK LIBRARY RESOURCES COUNCIL

Questioning existing practices.
Testing new ideas.
WNYLRC: a leader in library innovation.

Library Advocacy

Bill Search and Legislative Calendar

BE A LIBRARY ADVOCATE in 2019!!!

There are **three ways** you can be a part of advocacy efforts aimed at increasing legislative support for all our libraries and library systems:

Attend Local Meetings with Your State Representatives

If you are unable to travel to Albany, you also have a chance to meet with local representatives when WNYLRC schedules district visits. Most will take place January through March. Updates will be posted here for specific dates, times and location of these visits - you are welcome and encouraged to attend! PLEASE contact WNYLRC if you will be attending any of the visits so we can add your name to the list!

[View 2019 leg visits here](#)

[View 2018 leg visits here](#)

2019 Local Meetings with WNY State Representatives

***Dates and times subject to change!**

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger (140, D): Thursday, January 10, 2019 @ 11am, North Tonawanda Public Library, North Tonawanda, NY

Assemblyman Sean Ryan (149, D) *Chair, Standing Committee on Libraries & Technology: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 1:30pm, SUNY Erie South Campus Library, Orchard Park NY

Senator Catharine Young (57, R): Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 1pm, Friedensam Memorial Library, St. Bonaventure University

Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio (148, R): Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 1pm, Friedensam Memorial Library, St. Bonaventure University

Assemblyman Stephen Hawley (139, R): Friday, January 18, 2019 @ 10:30am , Richmond Memorial Library, Batavia NY*

Senator Timothy Kennedy (63, D): Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 11am, Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, Cheektowaga

Assemblyman David DiPietro (147, R): Thursday, January 31, 2019 @ 10:00am at the Aurora Town Library, East Aurora RESCHEDULED TO: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8 @ 2:30 PM AT THE WEST SENECA PUBLIC

LIBRARY (With Senator Gallivan)

Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello (145, R): ~~Thursday, January 31, 2019 @ 1pm~~ at Niagara University Library
RESCHEDULED TO: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019 @ 11AM AT NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (With Senator Ortt)

Senator Robert Ortt (62, R): **Friday, February 1, 2019 at 11am, Niagara County Community College, Sanborn NY**

Senator Chris Jacobs (60, R): **Friday, February 1, 2019 @ 3pm, Kenmore Branch Library, Kenmore, NY**

Assemblyman Michael Norris (144, R): Thursday, February 7, 2019 @ 10am, Lockport Public Library, Lockport NY

Assemblywoman Monica Wallace (143, D): **Friday, February 8, 2019 @ 12:30pm at WNYLRC, Cheektowaga**

Senator Patrick Gallivan (59, R): Friday, February 8, 2019 @ 2:30pm at the West Seneca Public Library*

Assemblyman Patrick Burke (142, D): **Thursday, February 14, 2019 @ 10am at West Seneca Public Library**

Assemblyman Andy Goodell (150, R): Thursday, February 14, 2019 @ noon at Fredonia Central Schools District Office

Senator M. Ranzenhofer (61, R): Friday, February 15, 2019 @ 11am, Newstead Public Library, Akron NY postponed RESCHEDULED TO: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 AT 11:15AM, NEWSTEAD LIBRARY IN AKRON

Assemblywoman C. Peoples-Stokes (141, D) **Assembly Majority Leader* : ~~Monday, February 25, 2019 @ 11:15am, Sisters Hospital, Buffalo~~ **CANCELED**

Assemblywoman Karen McMahon (146, D), **Friday, March 1, 2019 @ 1pm at the Eggertsville-Snyder Branch Library, Amherst** **Member, Standing Committee on Libraries & Education Technology*

*** If the dates above are not possible for you to attend for Assemblyman Hawley or Senator Gallivan, the Rochester Regional Library Council has also scheduled meetings, offering you an alternate date to meet with them: <https://rrlc.org/services/advocacy/>**

Write A Letter!

Join WNYLRC's letter writing campaign!

Set up a space in an area of the library with a box of writing materials (pens, pencils, paper, envelopes, etc.) and instructions for your visitors encouraging them to write letters to their representatives supporting State Library Aid in the 2019 budget. Legislators have informed us that handwritten letters -- *not* phone calls or emails -- are the most effective way for constituents to communicate their needs. Personal stories or anecdotes from visitors in support of your library help legislators understand the effect libraries have on their communities.

WNYLRC will cover the cost of sending the letters that come from your library patrons, and ask that you record the number of letters written weekly so we can send the correct postage. **Download the form** to keep track of how many letters you receive per week for postage reimbursement! You can also [download the detailed](#)

[instructions](#) for joining our campaign or email Heidi at hziemer@wnylrc.org for more information.

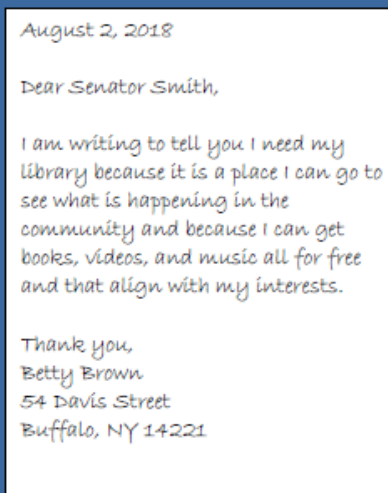
We have prizes for **the most creative mailboxes** you can come up with! Email Heidi (hziemer@wnylrc.org) or Caitlin (ckenney@wnylrc.org) with photos of your mailboxes! You can [vote for the mailboxes here](#). We will also include them in [our Facebook album](#) for consideration. **Each like counts as a vote** - so make sure you share the album and encourage your friends to like your photos! We will award prizes to the library community's favorite mailboxes!

Prizes for the most creative mailboxes are \$100 gift cards from Ebsco, Gale, or Gaylord.

[Download a copy of this poster](#) to display in your library or contact us for a foamboard version of the poster.

Here's what you can do:

1. Select a sheet of paper, envelope and, pen or pencil from the Letter Box
2. Please include your full address at the bottom particularly if you want a response.
3. Then, after your salutation ("*Dear Senator X*" or *Dear Assembly Member Y*"), simply write out, in your own words, **WHY YOU NEED YOUR LIBRARY or SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY!** You can be brief or not. Like this (this is just a sample not real people):



August 2, 2018

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing to tell you I need my library because it is a place I can go to see what is happening in the community and because I can get books, videos, and music all for free and that align with my interests.

Thank you,
Betty Brown
54 Davis Street
Buffalo, NY 14221

If you feel "stuck," here are some "prompts" to help you:

- I support my library because my library supports my reading interests
- I support my library because it provides child storytime
- I need my library because it is the place I like to go to do my homework
- I need my library because I can read/download the latest books for free
- I need my library because it is where my "XYZ" group regularly meets
- I need my library because it is where I can use the Internet
- I need my library because it is a place where I can get help finding what I need for... (*finding a job*), (*researching needed information*), (*to complete a home project*), (*with help from a librarian*), and so on
- I need my library because it is somewhere I can take my grandchildren
- I need my library because....

4. Remember to write the name and address of the Senator/Assembly Member on the outside of the envelope, like this:



Betty Brown
54 Davis Street
Buffalo NY 14221

Senator Sam Smith
456 Central Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14444

5. "Post" your letter in the "Mailbox" next to the Letter Box and we'll make sure it gets to the right person!!!

That's it! We will be collecting your letters until February 27, 2019. Your library needs you and, thanks you!!

Travel to Albany, NY for Library Advocacy Day

Join colleagues from across the state who are going to Albany, NY on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, for the annual LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY!

Visit the [NYLA Advocacy](#) page for details on this event

ENROLL TODAY! Sign-up as a Library Advocate

Use the link above and complete an online form to enroll as a Library Advocate, and you will receive e-mail alerts when your action is needed to act on behalf of libraries. Now advocating for your library services can be quick, simple and timely, plus there is no cost to you. Thank you for your support!

Library Advocacy in Western New York

Official Website for New York State Government:

Under the **"Government"** tab, you can find out how to contact the Governor's office; find and contact your state representatives; get updates on bills and legislation relating to libraries and more.

New York State Law and Libraries:

Searching NYS Law and Regulations Relating to libraries just got easier! Anyone searching for current New York State law and regulations pertaining to libraries, library systems, trustees, and librarians in New York State can now access this information quickly on the New York State Library's website. This interactive web resource makes components of the State Library publication Excerpts from New York State Education Law, Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Pertaining to Libraries, Library Systems, Trustees and Librarians available in a user-friendly and easy to navigate web tool for users. This interactive site supersedes the 1995 print version and the FTP files of the Excerpts document that has been on the State Library website since 1995.

New York Library Association:

Use the link above to go for the most recent information on statewide advocacy efforts for libraries including Library Advocacy Day in Albany, legislative priorities for libraries and; access to advocacy tools you can use in your local advocacy efforts.

The **American Library Association's Office for Library Advocacy** provides information on ALA's Advocacy Institute, federal legislative issues, library funding, and grassroots resources. ALA also reports on federal legislation that impact intellectual freedom and privacy.

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