



2557 STATE ROUTE 21
CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424
(585) 394-8260
FAX: (585) 394-1935
WWW.OWWL.ORG

May 10, 2023

Dear Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner,

This letter expresses the OWWL Library System’s support for Senate Bill S03594 / Assembly Bill A5266, which “sets the number of petitioners necessary to call for a vote on increasing the amount of funding of the annual contribution for the operating budget of a registered public or free association library at twenty-five qualified voters of a municipality.”

This bill has been noted as a priority by the New York State Board of Regents, the New York State Library, and the New York Library Association.

The aim of this bill aligns the petition signature requirement for libraries using a municipal ballot approach for their budget proposals (currently requiring 10% of the total number of voters in the last gubernatorial election) with the 25-signature requirement for libraries using a school district ballot approach to place a proposition on the ballot.

In our System, several libraries are exploring the municipal ballot option to secure adequate funding, alleviate the reliance on municipal appropriations, eliminate instances of double taxation, and support voter-directed funding for their institutions. The current 10% petition barrier prevents many of them from taking the initial step in solidifying their local funding.

Whether 25 individuals sign a petition or 500, all voters can voice their opinions on Election Day. This legislation will help libraries continue to support the millions of New Yorkers they are chartered to serve. We value your support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Ronald Kirsop
Executive Director
OWWL Library System

OWWL Library System Member Library Support for the Municipal Ballot Petition Reduction Bill:

- Stacey Wicksall, Macedon Public Library
- Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Avon Free Library
- Debby Emerson, Wadsworth Library
- Anne Brown, Walworth-Seely Public Library
- Jordan Schneider, Red Jacket Community Library
- Lisa Gricius, Warsaw Public Library
- Joseph O'Toole, Lyons Public Library
- Dottie Patt, Wolcott Library
- Timothy Niver, Victor Farmington Library
- Rebecca Connolly, Cordelia A. Greene Library
- Frank Sykes, Geneva Public Library
- Jenny Goodemote, Wood Library
- Tanya Taylor, Newark Public Library
- Roxanne Roscup, Sodus Community Library
- Jessica DeMarte, Perry Public Library
- Patricia Baynes, Palmyra Community Library
- Piety Exley, Bristol Library
- Pat Galbraith, Bell Memorial Library
- Patti Alexander, Red Creek Free Library
- Ruth Freier, Gorham Library
- Janelle Specca, Honeoye Public Library
- Deanna Davis-Wiltsie, Rose Library
- Erin Robinson Arcade Library
- Chelsea Arnold, Bloomfield Public Library