



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF SUPPORT WITH THE MASSENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

ALBANY, NY – Last week, The New York Library Association became aware of a concerning situation regarding an upcoming school district vote in the Town of Louisville.

We are grateful to see the out-pouring of support for the Massena Public Library by its community members and are optimistic about the election results. But we would be remiss if we did not declare publicly that we wholeheartedly disapprove of the Louisville Town Board’s actions.

Libraries serve as a hub within their communities. They offer resources and services to all individuals – regardless of political affiliation. For a town, whose constituents could benefit from this vote, to actively advocate against its future success is disgraceful.

“When the decision to fund libraries is put directly into the hands of voters, those budget votes pass over 95% of the time in New York State. It is unconscionable for the Town Board of Louisville to actively interfere with the rights of its citizens to exercise their rights to vote,” **said Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director of The New York Library Association.** “The New York Library Association stands with the Massena Public Library in their pursuit of adequate and sustainable funding, to be determined by its patrons.”

For more information, please visit the below resources:

[Library, Some Resident Outraged After Town Tells Them How To Vote](#) - WWNY

[Massena Public Library Website](#) (has their propositions listed)

[Town of Louisville Minutes](#)

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About NYLA:

The New York Library Association (NYLA) is the voice of the library community in New York. NYLA is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state. NYLA is the only statewide organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of all libraries and library staff in Albany and serves as the spokesperson on library matters to the media and public policymakers.