

Interested in becoming a Vestal Public Library Trustee?

The mission of the Vestal Public Library is to be recognized as the resource for life-long learning, community involvement, and entertainment. Located in the heart of the community, the library will provide a welcoming, accessible, comfortable, and safe environment for users of all ages.

The Vestal Public Library has been chartered to serve the taxpayers within the Vestal Central School District. Our mission is to provide the community with opportunities for personal and social growth, education, and entertainment through well-chosen materials, programs, events, and meeting spaces, and to seek continuous community input to ensure we fulfill these goals.

Our Values include:

- Nurturing lifelong learning and personal growth.
- Maintaining a physical library space that continues to meet patron needs.
- Providing professional development opportunities for staff to remain current in new systems and technologies.
- Encouraging opportunities for social and cultural interaction.

The Vestal Public Library is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees. Each year the Vestal Public Library Board seeks three Trustees to join the Board through election for a three-year term beginning July 1st of the year.

To be on the ballot for election to the Vestal Public Library Board of Trustees, you must complete the required petition as outlined below. Copies of the petition will be available in February on the Vestal Public Library website for download or may be picked at the Vestal School District Clerk's office or the Library.

Public Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the Library. Attending a Board Meeting, review the Board Meeting Minutes posted on the Library website or reach out to the Library Director or the Board President to learn more about the Library Board of Trustees' roles and responsibilities.

Please consider begin a part of the revitalization of the Vestal Public Library by serving on the Board of Trustees; your participate can help ensure the Vestal Public Library remains a vital part of our community now and in the future.

Thank you,

The Vestal Public Library Board of Trustees

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AS A TRUSTEE OF THE VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

On the 3rd Tuesday in May each year, voters of the Vestal Central School District will vote to elect individuals to fill open trustee seats for the Board of Trustees of the Vestal Public Library. Each year there will be at least three open seats to serve a full three-year term. Additional seats may be open to complete a term of one or two years. All newly elected trustees will commence his or her term on July 1st of the year and end June 30th based on the length of their term. The election will be held on the 3rd Tuesday in May each year at the same time and in the same location(s) as the District Meeting of the Vestal Central School District.

An eligible District resident (see below) who is interested in having his or her name placed on the ballot as a candidate for the open seat on the Board of Trustees must submit a Nominating Petition containing the signatures of at least 26 qualified voters in the Vestal Central School District to the Clerk of the Vestal Central School District, not later than 4:00 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each year. The Library also asks that you notify the Vestal Public Library Director of your candidacy by providing copies of your Nominating Petition to the Director by that date and time.

Q: Who may be nominated as a candidate for election as Member of the Board of Trustees of the Library?

A: Any person at least 18 years old who is a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Vestal Central School District (an “eligible voter”).

Q: How many voter signatures will be required for the petitions of the candidates for the Library’s Board of Trustees?

A: The School District Clerk will require each person seeking to be nominated for a position on the Library’s Board of Trustees to collect a minimum of 26 valid signatures of eligible voters on his or her nominating petition. (Education Law § 260 requires nominees to obtain the *greater* of: 25 signatures or a number of signatures equal to 2% of the total votes cast in the last Library election.) Candidates are encouraged to get as many signatures as possible to avoid being disqualified if a signature is challenged and voided.

Q: Who may sign a petition?

A: A petition may be signed by any eligible voter.

Q: Who may collect signatures on a nominating petition?

A: Signatures may be collected by any eligible voter.

Q: What form is used to collect petition signatures?

A: A form Nominating Petition is appended hereto. Candidates may use more than one form to secure all of the required signatures. Photocopies of the form may be used to collect signatures, but all of the signatures contained on the Nominating Petition filed with the School District Clerk must be originals.

Q: *May signatures be collected inside the Library building?*

A: Signatures on the petitions should not be collected inside the library building. Signatures may be collected outside of the Library building and at other places in the community.

Q: *When are the nominating petitions for candidates for the Board of Trustees due to the Vestal Central School District?*

A: The Trustee nominating petitions must be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Vestal Central School District not later than **4:00 p.m. on the 3rd Monday in April each year.**

Q: *How should the Nominating Petition form be filled-out?*

A: Candidates and persons collecting signatures on their behalf should be aware that strict compliance with the law is required in the execution of Nominating Petitions. Accordingly, it is extremely important that nominating petitions are filled out neatly and accurately. Petitions should be completed in pen and the person collecting signatures should clearly print the candidate's name and full address of the candidate's place of residence in the blanks at the top of the form. The person collecting the signatures should also fill in the blanks in the Statement of Witness at the bottom of the form by entering his or her own name and residential address.

Signatures are collected in the table in the center of the form and may only be collected in the presence of the witness. The signatures are collected by having the signer enter the date of signature, the signer's full name (in printing), the signer's signature, and the signer's current residential address (which must be located within the Vestal Central School District). Once a signature has been placed on a Nominating Petition, it should not be altered or modified in any manner. Errant marks on or near a signature may void the entire Nominating Petition. Care should be exercised to avoid the collection of duplicate signatures as they cannot be counted in the tally of valid signatures. Under no circumstances may the name or emblem of a political party be placed on the Nominating Petition, and care should be used not to identify the candidate with any party or political affiliation.

Upon completion of the form, the person collecting the signatures should tally the number of signatures collected, enter that number in the blank in the Statement of Witness, and then sign and date the petition. When all signatures have been collected, the pages of the nominating petition should be stapled and consecutively numbered by the candidate prior to the submission of the petition to the Clerk. The candidate should retain a copy of the Nominating Petition for his or her own records, and provide a copy of the Petition to Director of the Vestal Public Library.

SAMPLE Petition:

NOMINATING PETITION

TO: KAY E. ELLIS, CLERK OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE TOWNS OF VESTAL AND BINGHAMTON, BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK AND THE TOWN OF OWEGO, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a duly qualified voter of the Vestal Central School District, that I am entitled to vote at an election of the said School District, that my present place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and that I intend to support at the ensuing annual district meeting and I do hereby nominate the following named person as a candidate for the public office of member of the board of trustees of the Vestal Public Library (one of up to five seats elected at large), to be voted for at an election of said School District to be held for this purpose on May 21, 2019:

| Name of Candidate | Public Office | Place of Residence |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| _____ | MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY (for up to a 3 year term) | _____ _____ |

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on the day and year placed opposite my signature.

| | DATE | PRINTED NAME | SIGNATURE | ADDRESS | TOWN |
|----|------|--------------|-----------|---------|------|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | |

Statement of Witness (to be completed by person circulating petition):

I, _____, (name of witness) state: I am duly qualified voter of the Vestal Central School District of the Towns of Vestal and Binghamton, Broome County, New York and the Town of Owego, Tioga County, New York, and I now reside in the (city, town or village) of _____ in New York State, at _____, (address) herein. I know each of the voters whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing _____ signatures, and each of them subscribed the same in my presence and upon subscribing, declare to me that the foregoing statement made and subscribed by him or her was true.

Date: _____ Signature of Witness: _____