

**2025-2026 ALA CD#26**  
**2025/2026 ALA Membership Info Session**

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Report of the 2025 ALA Nominating Committee for the 2026 ALA Election

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** For information purposes, no action required

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Edward L. Sanchez, Chair, Nominating Committee

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**DATE:** December 15, 2025

**Committee Roster**

<b>Edward Sanchez</b> ( <i>Chair</i> ) Head, Library Information Technology Marquette University Raynor Library Milwaukee, WI	<b>Tarida Anantachai</b> Director, Talent Management North Carolina State University Libraries Raleigh, NC	<b>Leslie Campbell Hime</b> Richland, WA
<b>Leah Richardson</b> Director of Archives and Special Collections George Washington University Libraries Washington D.C.	<b>Rachel Fleming</b> Scholarly Communications Librarian University of Tennessee Chattanooga Chattanooga, TN	<b>Richenda Hawkins</b> Head, Library Experience and Access Department Oregon State University Libraries Corvallis, OR
<b>Ann Symons</b> Portland, OR	<b>Ed Garcia</b> Library Director Cranston Public Library Cranston, RI	<b>Gavin Downing</b> School Librarian Kent School District Federal Way, WA

## **Executive Summary**

The Nominating Committee for the 2026 American Library Association election has successfully completed its charge of developing a slate of candidates for the positions of President-elect and Councilor-at-Large for the 2026 Election, while balancing transparency and confidentiality, equity, and enthusiastic recruiting.

The ALA membership was provided numerous opportunities to learn about nomination opportunities, including via flyers, committee identifying buttons, and targeted presentations at 2025 ALA Annual in Philadelphia; an Online Open House for Members in August, and social media postings developed by ALA Marketing. For the first time, membership received the means to recommend themselves or someone else for nomination via an online form available on the election website. This approach, along with the committee's recruitment efforts, and self-nominations, garnered many nomination candidates; twenty-three (23) leads for president-elect (2 needed) and thirty (30) leads for councilor-at-large (18 needed). (See Appendix A).

The upcoming 2026 ALA election period opens on March 9, 2026, and closes on April 1, 2026.

## **Background**

At its first online meeting in April, the committee welcomed President-elect Sam Helmick, who reviewed the Committee Charge and commented on the guidelines in use for the ALA Nominating Committee. This was followed by an overview of the Nominations process and election process from past Chair Dr. Nicole Cooke and Sheryl Reyes, Director, ALA Governance Office. During the summer, Marsha Burgess, Council Secretariat, capably filled in for Sheryl who was away on leave. Many thanks to all these individuals for their contributions to a successful nominating year!

## Work of the Committee

- The committee met monthly from April-June, and multiple times per month during August and September.
- For the Annual Conference we developed informational flyers, created buttons for committee members to wear, developed appeals to be used at ALA meetings like Council Orientation and the Strategic Leadership Luncheon. We also decided to host a Nominating Committee Open House Membership Forum.
- To facilitate the work of the committee, we developed a Google Workspace that included Upcoming meetings, Important Dates, Running Minutes, Outreach lists, a Candidate Tracker, Open House Forum slides and notes, Presidential duties, traits, and Interview Questions, and ALA Councilor duties and traits.
- During July, panelists for the Membership Forum were recruited and set with President Cindy Hohl, Emily Drabinski, and Lessa Pelayo-Lozada speaking to the President-elect role, and Nick Buron, Christina Rodrigues, and Ann Symons speaking to the Councilor-at-Large role.
- On August 12, the Open House Membership Forum took place and the committee divided up the responsibilities for describing the open positions in terms of duties, eligibility, and universal attributes, followed by stirring stories of service and leadership from the panelists, and the overall process and milestones.
- In September, candidate names and nomination information were added to a Candidate Tracker spreadsheet that ultimately became a way for the committee to assess candidates from multiple datapoints. As the committee moved closer to its shared goal, it needed to meet weekly to discuss the prospective nominees. The process was rigorous, thoughtful, and ultimately produced a slate of highly qualified, diverse, and committed leaders capable of moving the association forward.
- During October, decision messages were sent to Councilor-at-large candidates and interviews were scheduled for President-elect candidates.
- In November, all candidate acceptances were received, and the nominated candidates were announced.

## Observations and Recommendations

- The “Submit Candidate Biographical Form” was not active as of the July 9th date as scheduled until around August 2nd. It is difficult to know if that downtime influenced the number of prospective submissions.
- Due to the necessity of sorting out the multiple responsibilities of the Charge, the committee considered the value of multi-year, perhaps three or staggered terms for committee members. Note: some members expressed benefits for serving only once.
- Another consideration was the Nominating Committee Chair being the outgoing Immediate Past President. Other Nominating Committee models reflect the past president being the Chair.
- Other recommendations included extending confidentiality requirements to a restriction on endorsements by committee members.
- Finally, we recommend consistency regarding the number of presidential candidates nominated to better steward valuable staff time and financial resources. We nominated 2 candidates, with no restriction on the number of petition candidates.

## **Appendix A: Nominated Candidates of ALA President and ALA Councilor-at-Large**

**There are 2 candidates for the single position of President-Elect:**

1. Tamika Barnes
2. Becky Calzada

**There are 18 candidates for the twelve (12) at-large seats on ALA Council:**

1. Joy Bridwell
2. Elizabeth Burns
3. Marikit Fain
4. Maggie Farrell
5. Aubrey Iglesias
6. Gina Kromhout
7. Tina Lerno
8. Rodney Lippard
9. Charles (Chip) McAuley
10. Kerrie Mierop
11. Matthew Noe
12. April Oharah Hernandez
13. Cassandra Osterloh
14. Fatima Perkins
15. BrendaPriutt-Annisette
16. Je Salvador
17. Amanda Sand
18. William Wallace