



585.359.7092  
hplinfo@libraryweb.org

Henrietta Public Library  
625 Calkins Road  
Rochester, NY 14623

# Henrietta Public Library Trustee Position Description

Updated February 2023

Would you like to help make decisions for your library's future? Would you like to have a voice in charting the direction of your library? If yes, consider serving as a library trustee. You may submit your résumé for consideration to Library Director Adrienne Pettinelli at [adrienne.pettinelli@libraryweb.org](mailto:adrienne.pettinelli@libraryweb.org). The director will forward all interested applications to the Nominating and Board Development Committee. Board terms typically begin January 1.

**TERM:** 5 years

**ACCOUNTABLE TO:** Henrietta taxpayers, elected officials as applicable, the community, the library staff, and the people served by the library. The HPL Board of Trustees is governed by the New York State Education Department.

**BASIC FUNCTIONS:** Library board members protect and advance the interests of the broader community by governing the operations and promoting the development of the Henrietta Public Library. The board of trustees establishes policies and long-term goals, oversees general operations, initiates and oversees the budget process, promotes and advocates for the library, and hires and evaluates the library director.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Board and committees:**

- Attends all board meetings and participates appropriately; prepares for board meetings by reading all provided materials, contributes to meeting discussions, and lends content expertise where applicable.
- Adheres to Library and Town policies; maintains confidentiality as required.
- Serves on committees as appointed by the board president.
- Abides by majority decisions reached by the board and publicly supports these decisions.

**Library operations:**

- Ensures that library meets New York State Minimum Library Standards.
- Establishes library policies and reviews them on a regular basis, updating as needed.
- Participates in ongoing strategic planning to meet the changing needs of the community.
- Hires and regularly evaluates the performance of the library director.
- Takes action to maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs



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#### Financial oversight:

- Ensures adequate funding levels for library operations and maintains a clear picture of the library's financial situation, including regular review of financial reports of current income and expenses and understanding various library funding sources.
- Reviews monthly financial statements in the context of the annual budget, approves reasonable expenditures that are within the total approved budget, and forwards approved bills for payment by the town.
- Assists in budget preparation; represents and defends the library at local budget hearings.

#### Advocate for the Library:

- Becomes informed about the services and programs offered by the library and promotes these in the community.
- Supports basic library tenets such as: Intellectual Freedom, Freedom to Read, Confidentiality of Patron Records, Library Bill of Rights, and the Public's Right to Information.
- Keeps up with current library trends and practices by attending professional meetings, visiting other libraries, and talking to trustees from other libraries; and keeps up with library legislation at the local, state, and federal levels.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

- Commitment to provide the best possible library service for the community.
- Knowledge of the library's mission.
- Readiness to devote time and effort to the duties of trusteeship, including regular attendance at meetings and preparation for those meetings.
- Ability to work with people, lead meetings, and communicate effectively.
- Must be a resident of the Town of Henrietta.

About Public Library Boards in New York State: A trustee is a person to whom property is legally committed in trust. A library trustee's commitment is to both the physical property and resources of the library and the services it provides. The library board has the final responsibility to see that its library provides the best possible service to its community. Every trustee makes a personal commitment to contribute the time and energy to faithfully carry out these duties. Under New York State law, library boards have broad and almost exclusive powers and authority to administer the library. The board should not only be concerned with the internal operations of the organization but also alert to external trends and changes that can affect the library's program of services. Being proactive and open to change is imperative in order to survive and thrive in a world in which change is the only constant. The public library board's primary job is to provide the highest quality library service possible for its community.