



**AAUW Naperville Area
Candidate Questionnaire**

**Consolidated Election
April 4, 2023**

**Lisle Library District Trustee Candidates
(alphabetical order)
Vote for not more than 4**

1. [Vanessa Berry](#)
2. [Debbie Breihan](#)
3. [JoAnn Hassler](#)
4. [Karen Lynn Larson](#)
5. [Joshua Martin](#)
6. [Lorna Turner](#)

Methodology

We emailed all candidates and invited them to answer questions relevant to AAUW public policy priorities and the position the candidates are seeking. We sent follow-up reminders and collated all the responses. Candidates' responses have not been edited. Candidates who did not respond are indicated as "No response received."

Question:

In many communities, selection of appropriate materials for public libraries has become a contentious issue. Please share your views on the role of the board in collection development and material selection.

Vanessa Berry

No response received.

Debbie Breihan

The library staff is trained to make the selections for the library collection. They have the education and tools to do this and know what the patrons and community want and what will enhance and enrich the library's collection. My belief is that it is the job of the library board to support the staff's decisions and choices as far as their selections go.

Challenges to an item in the collection should be looked at on a case by case basis. I would not even begin to make a decision about removal of an item until I had viewed or read the piece in its entirety and listened to staff's thoughts regarding its original selection.

JoAnn Hassler

No response received.

Karen Lynn Larson

No response received.

Joshua Martin

Library Board Trustees play a crucial role in collection development and material selection as they are responsible for ensuring that the Library District meets the needs and interests of its diverse community. By actively seeking out and encouraging diverse and culturally responsive materials, board members help create a library that reflects the varied perspectives and experiences of its patrons. In doing so, they can help promote understanding, empathy, and inclusivity within the community.

Trustees may also work closely with librarians and other community stakeholders to identify gaps in the library's collection and embrace materials that are relevant and

engaging for underrepresented groups. By prioritizing the acquisition of materials that reflect the cultural backgrounds and experiences of marginalized groups, board members can help create a more equitable and inclusive library.

Understanding that selection of materials has become a contentious issue is important, it is still imperative for the Board to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Trustees must balance the community's diverse interests and perspectives with their responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and ensure access to a wide range of information and ideas. By engaging in thoughtful and transparent decision-making and by creating policies and procedures that promote inclusivity and impartiality, library board members can help create a collection that reflects the values and beliefs of the community it serves.

Lorna Turner

At the Lisle Library, we thankfully have a Director who involves the Board of Trustees in any major decisions that are made, and is very conservative in her approach to collection development and material selection. She has very open conversations with her staff and their thoughts. As a result of her decisions, with guidance from the Board, we have not had any controversies at our library.