



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

Legislative and Fiscal Summary of Administration Legislation

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs /s/

Date: July 20, 2026

Subject: Resolution No. 25-26 – Confirming Nominations to the Board of Trustees of The Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Incorporated

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Government Relations Office for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Resolution No. 25-26, which confirms the County Executive's nominations to the Board of Trustees ("Board") of The Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Incorporated ("PLAA").

Background

This Resolution, introduced at the request of the Administration, confirms the County Executive's nominations to the Board of the PLAA. Section 23-401 of the Education Article of the State Code authorizes the governing body of each county to establish a county public library system that maintains freedom from political influence. Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 23-401(a). Subsection 23-401(b) provides that each county public library system shall be governed by a Board of Library Trustees, but further indicates that a charter county may (1) establish a library agency with some or all of the powers conferred to the board of trustees under subsequent provisions of the Education Article or (2) permit the board of trustees to provide for the board's own selection and powers. In general, a county library's board of trustees must consist of seven members appointed by the county governing body from nominees submitted by current members of the library's board of trustees. See *Id.* §23-403(a).

Anne Arundel County's Department of Libraries, the PLAA, is an independent entity that is managed by a self-sustaining board, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Educ. §23- 403(a)(2) and Section 552 of the County Charter. Subsection 23-403(a)(2) of the Education Article authorizes an independent corporate entity, existing under a corporate charter established before 1945, to continue as the county library's governing board of trustees so long as (1) it maintains at least seven members; (2) "the members are chosen on the basis of character, ability and demonstrated

Note: This Legislative and Fiscal Summary provides a synopsis of the legislation as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the legislation.

interest in library matters”; and (3) the members are representatives of the area the library serves and residents of the county the library services. Md. Code Ann., Educ. §§ 23-403(a)(2) and (b). Section 552 of the County Charter makes clear that the County’s intent in establishing a Department of Libraries was to confer the County’s library governing authority on the already existing PLAA, which was established under private Articles of Incorporation in 1936. See Section 552 of the County Charter.

Consequently, PLAA is provided complete discretion regarding its selection of its Board’s members so long as it comports with Md. Code Ann., Educ. §§ 23-403(a)(2) and (b). Pursuant to PLAA’s Twenty-second Amendment and Complete Restatement of the Bylaws dated May 15, 2025 (the “Bylaws”), PLAA’s Board is composed of two classes of Trustees with eighteen (18) members in total.

The Bylaws further provide that the first class of Trustees shall be eight members who are nominated by the County Executive and confirmed by resolution of the County Council, prior to final appointment by the Board. Seven of the eight members nominated by the County Executive and confirmed by resolution of the County Council shall represent each of the County’s councilmanic districts, and the eighth member shall be at large. Members of the Board serve for a three year term up to a maximum of three consecutive 3-year terms. In addition, any new trustee filling the seat of a trustee who resigns shall serve out the term of the resigning trustee and thereafter may serve no more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

The Board is charged with the responsibility of the governance of the PLAA. The powers and duties of the Board are set forth in § 23-405 of the Education Article of the State Code, which permits the Board to (1) establish and operate libraries at any location in Anne Arundel County; (2) determine the library’s policies; and (3) adopt reasonable rules, regulations, and bylaws for the use of the library and the conduct of its business. Md. Code Ann., Educ. §23-405(c). The Board is also permitted to advise in the preparation and approval of the library’s budget. Id. § 23-405(d)(1).

Summary

The terms of Laura Ellis (a resident of District 1), Faith Steele (a resident of District 2), J. Robert Sapp (a resident of District 3), James Estep (a resident of District 4), Noah Comet (a resident of District 5), and Cathy Belcher (a resident of District 7) have expired on June 30, 2025, and the County Executive renominates Laura Ellis, Faith Steele, J. Robert Sapp, James Estep, Noah Comet, and Cathy Belcher to serve as members of the AACPL Board of Trustees for 3-year terms ending on June 30, 2028.

The term of Dylan Behler (a resident of District 6) expired on June 30, 2026, and the County Executive renominates Dylan Behler to serve as member of the AACPL Board of Trustees for a 3-year term ending on June 30, 2029.

The first term of the at-large member, Ishani Gandhi, expired on June 30, 2025. Ms. Gandhi resigned in Spring 2026, during the first year of her second term, and the County Executive nominates E. J. Amyot to serve as the at-large member of the AACPL Board of Trustees for the remainder of a 3-year term ending June 30, 2028.

Purpose

The Purpose of this resolution is to renominate current members and a new member to the AACPL Board of Trustees.

Fiscal Impact

As this resolution simply confirms the County Executive's nominations, there is no anticipated fiscal impact.

Additional Information

The Government Relations Office is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Resolution. Specific questions should be directed to Lori Blair Klasmeier, Office of Law. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
 Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jenny Proebstle, Chief of Staff
 Gregory Swain, County Attorney
 Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer
 Skip Auld, CEO, Anne Arundel County Public Library