

Item: WLS Bylaws Revision

Background: The Westchester Library System (WLS) Bylaws makes no specific mention of general criteria required to serve on the WLS Board Trustees. At the October Board Meeting, a motion was made to appoint a candidate to fill the recent vacancy for District V (Armonk, Bedford Village, Mount Pleasant, Pound Ridge); however, at the time, the candidate was seeking employment at a WLS member library. During discussion, a question was raised whether employment at a WLS member library would pose a conflict of interest. The vote was tabled, and further information was requested.

Status: The Nominating & Board Development and the Governance Committees met on November 17th to discuss whether or not the WLS trustee eligibility criteria should be revised in the bylaws.

The current text under Article 1. Trustees, Section 3 reads as follows:

Section 3. Trustees shall be limited to serving two consecutive five-year terms, excluding any partial term when a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term.

The following revised text to Article 1. Trustees, Section 3 is being proposed. Text in ***bold italic*** is new:

Section 3. Trustees must be at least 18 years of age and residents of the WLS district they represent. No current employee of the System or any member library shall be eligible to serve as a Trustee. Trustees shall be limited to serving two consecutive five-year terms, excluding any partial term when a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term.

Per standard procedures, this amendment is being presented one meeting in advance as an Information Item with official approval to be sought at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting, which will be held in January 2021.

Any questions can be directed to Karen Zevin, Chair of the Nominating & Board Development Committee, or Cathy Draper, Chair of the Governance Committee.

December 1, 2020