PURPOSE OF A SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

Although the authority to govern ongoing system operations is delegated to the NEKLS Executive Board, the "System Board" is actually a much larger group that votes at system assemblies. By state statute the System Board must include at least one representative appointed to represent taxpayers in counties in which the system levies a property tax, and at least one representative from every system member library. System bylaws spell this out in detail:

“The System Board shall consist of one representative selected by the board or governing body of each library member; one representative from each county in which system taxes are levied, appointed by each taxing county’s commission to represent territory being taxed directly to support the System; and the members of the System Executive Board.

**Representatives to the Board shall be selected by each local board or governing body for yearly terms.** A representative to the System Board need not be a member of the local public library board or governing body he or she is representing.”

The system representatives vote on all matters at full system board business meetings. In practice that usually means voting on the annual plan and budget, the slate of nominees for the Executive Board, and amendments to bylaws. These votes generally are at the Annual Assembly in August. This August date is due to the statutory requirement that the full board approve the system budget. A quorum for a board meeting is 20 members, so not all members would need to attend that August meeting, but attendance is highly encouraged.

In brief, the role of the System representative is to attend one or two meetings per year and vote on all matters of system business at that meeting. It is theoretically possible but not practical for the board to more actively manage system affairs, as it is currently a group of up to146 members.

A member’s System Representative can be a library employee, a current or former library board member, or a citizen of the community. There is no limitation on who can be a member’s designated System representative.

**Please go to the NEKLS website and fill out the System Representative contact information by July 1, 2018. The link to the form is** [**https://goo.gl/yzXmpr**](https://goo.gl/yzXmpr) **.**

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