

Types of Libraries: A Comparison

	ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES	PUBLIC LIBRARIES		
		Municipal Public Library	School District Public Library	Special District Public Library
How Established	By vote of association members or as trustees operating under a will or deed of trust.	By vote of county, city, town or village board; or by petition and referendum.	By vote of school district voters.	By special act of State legislature and vote of special district voters.*
Charter	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.
Registration	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.
Tax Funds	May receive appropriation from units of government. Also tax levy by vote of municipal or school district voters. Library should sign contract with appropriating unit. May petition municipal and/or school district tax payers for funds.	Budget approved by county, city, town, or village board. Also tax levy by vote of municipal or school district voters. May petition municipal and/or school district tax payers for funds.	Budget approved by school district voters. May also petition for a tax levy from municipalities.	Budget approved by district voters. May also petition for a tax levy from municipalities, unless enactment legislation specifies otherwise.
Bonding Authority	Not permitted. Requires a special act of legislation through Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY)	Municipal government may bond if it owns the library building.	School district may bond if it owns the library building.	A municipality may bond on behalf of district if legislation allows.*
Board of Trustees	Number: 5-25. Elected by association members. Term of office: set by charter. Responsible to association membership and to Regents. Residential requirements may be established in bylaws.	Number: 5-15. Approved by municipal governing board; term of office: three or five years if established after 1921.** Responsible to municipal government, public, and Regents. Must be residents of municipality (except village library).	Number: 5-15. Elected by school district voters. Term of office: three or five years (if established after 1921).** Responsible to school district voters and Regents. Must be residents of school district.	Number: determined by enabling legislation. Elected by residents of special district. Term of office: five years or as defined by legislation. Responsible to special district voters and Regents. Residency requirements determined by enabling legislation.
Community Involvement	Public can join association and may vote for trustees.	Public "owns" library; votes for elected officials who are sympathetic to library needs.	Public "owns" library and votes directly for trustees and budget.	Public "owns" library and votes directly for trustees and budget.
Retirement Benefits	May purchase retirement benefits from private vendor. Some may be in State Retirement System if specified in statute.	State Retirement System benefits through municipality.	State Retirement System benefits through school district or independently.	State Retirement System benefits if library district opts to participate.
Civil Service	Employees not covered by Civil Service.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.