

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2000

CHAPTER 398

AN ACT to create the Thrall public library district of Middletown and Wallkill

Became a law August 30, 2000, with the approval of the Governor.
Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general, special or local law to the contrary, there is hereby created and established in the county of Orange a public library district which shall include the geographic boundaries consisting of the enlarged city school district of Middletown, and all of the town of Wallkill with the exception of those properties located within the Goshen central school district; but shall include all portions of the Valley Central school district, the Pine Bush central school district and the Minisink Valley central school district to the extent of their portions located within the town of Wallkill only. The public library shall be known as the Thrall public library district of Middletown and Wallkill.

§ 2. Election. 1. The public library district herein described shall not come into existence unless and until it is approved and the initial proposed budget is approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified voters voting in an election held pursuant to the following provisions. Upon receipt of a petition signed by not less than one hundred voters qualified to vote at a general election, the board of trustees of the existing Middletown Thrall library district shall give notice of an election to be held on March 30, 2001. If a majority of the voters approve the formation of the district, then the district shall come into existence on the terms and conditions set forth hereinafter. At said election the issue shall be:

(a) whether the public library district herein described shall be created or not;

(b) whether the budget therefor proposed by the board of trustees of the Thrall public library district of Middletown and Wallkill shall be approved or disapproved; and

(c) the election of seven trustees as hereinafter provided.

The trustees of the existing Middletown Thrall library district shall give notice of said election by the publication of a notice in one or more newspapers having a general circulation in the district to be served. The first publication of such notice shall be not less than thirteen days and not more than twenty days prior to the date of such election. In addition, the board of trustees of the existing Middletown Thrall library district shall cause copies of such notice to be posted conspicuously in five public places within the proposed district at least thirteen days prior to the date of such election. Such notice shall specify the time when and the place where such election will be held, the issues to be decided at said election and the hours during which polls will be open for the receipt of ballots thereof at all

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

elections from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The board of trustees of the existing Middletown Thrall library district shall designate a resident qualified voter of such district to act as chairperson of any election of such district and shall designate not less than two nor more than four resident qualified voters at two polling places which shall be the Circleville Elementary school and the Middletown Thrall library to act as election inspectors and ballot clerks at such elections. No trustee shall serve as chairperson or as an election inspector or ballot clerk. The board of trustees may adopt a resolution providing that such chairperson, election inspectors and ballot clerks shall be paid for their respective services at the initial election. Such resolution, if adopted, may fix reasonable compensation for the services of such official. Every voter, otherwise qualified to vote at a general election within the area of the proposed district shall be qualified to vote at said election. After the polls have closed at said election, the election inspectors and the ballot clerks shall immediately canvass publicly the ballots cast and the chairperson of the election shall publicly announce the result. Within seventy-two hours thereafter, the chairperson, election inspectors and ballot clerks shall execute and file a certificate of the result of the canvass with the board of trustees and the Orange county clerk.

2. In the event that the district is created, there shall be an annual election conducted by the board of trustees of the library district in accordance with the provisions of subdivision one of this section, at a time to be set by the board, at which election vacancies on the board of trustees shall be filled and at which any proposed budget which the board shall determine to submit to the voters pursuant to section four of this act shall be submitted to the voters.

3. Candidates for the office of member of the board of trustees of the library district shall be nominated by petition. No vacancy on the board of trustees to be filled shall be considered a separate specific office. A separate petition shall be required to nominate each candidate for a vacancy on the board. Each petition shall be directed to the secretary of the board of trustees, shall be signed by at least fifty qualified voters of the district, shall state the residence of each signer, and shall state the name and residence of the candidate. In the event that any such nominee shall withdraw candidacy prior to the election, such person shall not be considered a candidate unless a new petition nominating such person in the same manner and within the same time limitation applicable to other candidates is filed with the secretary of the board of trustees. Each petition shall be filed with the secretary of the board of trustees between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., not later than the thirteenth day preceding the election at which time the candidates nominated are to be elected. In the event the district is created, petitions nominating candidates for the board of trustees after the initial election shall be filed with the secretary of the Thrall public library district of Middletown and Wallkill.

4. At any election in such district, the voters may adopt a proposition providing that, in all subsequent elections, vacancies on the board of trustees shall be considered separate specific offices and that the nominating petitions shall describe the specific vacancy upon the board of trustees for which the candidate is nominated, which description shall include at least the length of the term of the office and the name of the last incumbent, if any. No person shall be nominated for more than one specific office. Such procedure shall be followed with respect to all nominations and elections in subsequent years until and unless

such proposition is repealed by the electors of the district at a regular election by adoption of a proposition to repeal the same.

§ 3. Organization and structure. The library district shall be managed, operated and controlled by a board of trustees consisting of seven members. The trustees shall at the first regular meeting of the board determine when terms of office of each member shall expire as follows: the two trustees receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for four years, the two trustees receiving the second highest number of votes shall serve for three years, the two trustees receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve for two years, the trustee receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall serve for one year. As vacancies occur trustees shall be elected at the annual election herein provided for to serve four year terms by the voters of the library district hereby created, said terms to commence on the first day of the month next following the election. Only qualified voters of the district shall be eligible for election to the board of trustees. The board of trustees at its first meeting each year shall elect or appoint a president and vice-president who shall be members of the board and a secretary, treasurer and such other officers as they deem necessary. If the board so determines, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by individuals who are not members of the board of trustees and, in that event, such officer may, if the board so determines, receive compensation as fixed by resolution of the board.

§ 4. Finances. 1. The initial budget for the library district shall be determined by a vote of the voters of the district in the initial election as hereinafter provided for. All future budgets that increase the library proposed total operating expenditures over the total operating expenditures in the last preceding fiscal year's budget shall be submitted to the residents voting at the annual election of trustees pursuant to section two of this act. Funds voted for library purposes at the initial election and at all future budget elections shall be considered an annual appropriation therefor and shall be levied and collected yearly in the same manner and at the same time as other taxes in the municipalities served by the district.

2. The board of trustees shall annually file with the clerk of each of the municipalities within the district on or before the first day of February an estimate of the proposed budget including costs of library services to be raised by levy for the library district in the fiscal year beginning on the first day of July of that year. The municipalities shall not make any change in the estimate of revenues or expenditures submitted by the board of the library district in preparation of its preliminary budget.

3. The towns of Wallkill, Wawayanda, Mount Hope and Goshen and the city of Middletown shall each levy a tax against the real property lying within the library district for the amount to be raised by tax as contained in the annual budget of the Thrall public library district of Middletown and Wallkill. The municipalities may issue tax anticipation notes, anticipation revenue notes and budget notes pursuant to article 2 of the local finance law to obtain the necessary moneys therefor.

4. The city of Middletown and the towns of Wallkill, Wawayanda, Mount Hope and Goshen shall have the power to authorize, sell and issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness pursuant to the local finance law in order to permit the library district to provide facilities or improve facilities for library purposes. Upon written request from the board of trustees of the library district, after approval by the qualified voters of such district, the municipalities shall authorize, sell

and issue such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness as are necessary to accomplish the improvements specified in the notice. The proceeds of such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall be paid to the treasurer of the library district and maintained in a segregated account in accordance with section 165.00 of the local finance law and expended by the treasurer only on specific authorization by the board of trustees.

5. The board of trustees of the library district may accept on behalf of the district any absolute gift, devise or bequest of real or personal property and such conditional gifts, devises or bequests as it shall by resolution approve.

6. The treasurer of the library district shall be custodian of all funds of the library district including gifts and trust funds paid over to the trustees. The board of trustees may authorize the investment of funds in the custody of the treasurer in the same manner in which school district funds may be invested. Proceeds of obligations may be invested in accordance with section 165.00 of the local finance law. The city of Middletown and the towns of Wallkill, Wawayanda, Mount Hope and Goshen shall promptly pay over to the library district all moneys which belong to or are raised for the library district. No moneys shall be disbursed by the treasurer of the library district except after audit by the board of trustees. The board of trustees of the library district shall audit all claims and shall order the payment thereof, except as otherwise provided by this section. No such claims shall be audited or ordered paid by the trustees unless an itemized voucher therefor shall be presented to the board of trustees for audit and allowance. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to payment of claims of fixed salaries and amounts which the library districts may be required to pay on account of retirement contributions for past or current services to officers and employees of the library district. The treasurer shall keep such records in such manner as the board of trustees may require.

§ 5. Charter, commencement of operations, and transfer of property and employees. The initial trustees shall, within thirty days from the date of approval of the library district by the voters of the district, apply to the board of regents for a charter as a public library. Upon the granting of such a charter by the board of regents, the Middletown Thrall library district is hereby deemed dissolved and title to all property, real property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, trust and other funds, now held by the Middletown Thrall library district shall be transferred to, vest in, and be acquired by the library district hereby established. The enlarged city of Middletown school district shall upon granting of such charter enter into a lease with the library district for its use of that building currently used as a library by the Middletown Thrall library district. Such lease at an annual fee of one dollar, shall contain such terms and conditions as agreed upon by the school district and the library district, provided that upon payment of any outstanding bonds issued for the construction, equipping and/or reconstruction thereof, secured by an evidence of indebtedness on such building, such building shall be transferred to the library district for one dollar. Upon the granting of such charter by the board of regents, all employees of the Middletown Thrall library district shall become employees of the library district upon the same terms and conditions of employment and at the same rate of pay as their previous employment by the Middletown Thrall library district.

§ 6. Ad valorem levy. The several lots and parcels of land within the area of said public library district are hereby determined to be benefited by the library facilities and devices existing as of the effective date of this act and the city of Middletown and the towns of Wallkill, Wawayanda, Mount Hope and Goshen are hereby authorized to assess, levy and collect the necessary expenses of operation, maintenance and repair of such facilities and services and such capital improvements including debt service on bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the county issued for the purpose of the library district as may be hereafter authorized pursuant to the provisions of this act from such lots and parcels of land in the same manner and at the same time as other county charges.

§ 7. Education law. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the provisions of the education law relating to public libraries shall be applicable to the library district herein established.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK ss:

Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such section, is entitled to be read into evidence.

JOSEPH L. BRUNO

Temporary President of the Senate

SHELDON SILVER

Speaker of the Assembly