

What are “System Representatives” and what is their role in NEKLS governance?

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 by the Governor 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 appointed by the governor 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 with no representatives to serve more than eight consecutive years. 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 representative votes on all matters at full system board business meetings. In practice that usually means voting on the annual plan and estimated budget, slate of nominees for the Executive Board, and amendments to bylaws. These votes generally are at the Spring Assembly. However it is our intent to have a board business meeting in August to approve the final budget. That 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