

Timestamp	Why didn't you vote in the 2011 ALA Election?	Please expand on the items you selected above.	What would need to happen for you to vote in the next election?
5/4/2011 19:37:09	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I also figured that I was not renewing my membership, so it was not really fair to elect leaders of a group that I wasn't going to be participating in. (I joined it because my job required me to go to the ALA Conference last year and paid my way, but now I have a new [nonprofessional] job which will neither pay for my membership nor any conferences or anything like that.)	I think I'd have to feel like I was an actual participant in ALA in general or one of the smaller committees, and I'd have to have a real librarian job.
5/4/2011 21:59:57	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I didn't take the time to familiarize myself with the issues or candidates.		Become more involved in ALA issues so I know what is at stake.
5/4/2011 22:02:42	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/5/2011 6:44:42	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't have time to learn about the candidates.	The election falls in one of the busiest times of the year for my library, and I didn't have time to look up all the candidates, learn about them and their positions (not just what they say publicly as part of their platform, but their larger presence in the library world, etc.) Also, I am not convinced that the leadership of ALA (especially at the very highest levels) really makes any difference in my day-to-day work and the constraints that my library faces.	I have voted in the past and will almost certainly do so again in the future, just not this year.
5/5/2011 7:39:53	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It seemed pointless. 95% of the offices were either unopposed or in the case of council, I don't have time to research 35 candidates. Why are there 35 candidates for 35 positions anyway? How can a group that large possibly be necessary or functional?	Make council smaller. Have opposed elections.
5/5/2011 8:32:21	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/5/2011 8:34:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't feel ALA does much to help in regards to my career. They're basically static text on websites.	
5/5/2011 8:44:17	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., TOO MANY CANDIDATES	There are too many people and too many positions being voted for. I do not feel like voting uninformed is wise, so better to not vote at all.	Limit number of elected officials or at least regionalize, so that a person can hope to be informed enough to vote without having to devote hours to the task.
5/5/2011 8:46:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I'm a first year library student, so I didn't think I would know most of the candidates.	I will vote in the next election because I saw that one of the few candidates I did know anything about lost by 1%. I felt guilty that I hadn't contributed to getting her past that narrow margin.
5/5/2011 9:05:25	I didn't feel like the candidates represented me.	I feel like K-12 school librarians are under represented. Granted many "school librarians" are not MLIS holding workers. We as an organization really need to have a frank discussion about this and our expectations. Certified teacher + MLIS ALA accredited librarian = school librarian.	
5/5/2011 9:07:42	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., It was finals and because I remember voting last year took a lot of time, I kept putting it off until it was too late.		I would like a simpler interface, a better idea of what candidates (besides the president, treasurer, etc) would be doing, and a better way to understand the candidates than just reading their blurbs.
5/5/2011 9:09:07	Voting takes too much time., I forgot.	I refuse to vote as an uninformed voter, and I simply did not have enough time or brainpower to prepare properly. I thought the amount of information provided to voters was excellent, however, especially from NMRT. That was phenomenal.  Also, one day it was the beginning of April and the next day it was May. Not entirely sure what happened in the last month, but these hiring freezes really go to the existing librarians' heads!	
5/5/2011 9:12:20	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/5/2011 9:52:38	I forgot.	I have not been very active in the organization, and kept putting voting on the back burner while taking care of academic commitments.	The email reminders were helpful. I would need to not be swamped with class projects and to take time to research the candidates before the election opened so I could go vote immediately when voting began.
5/5/2011 9:58:41	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	In order to vote on the areas of ALA that I am actually interested in I have to wade through an ocean of candidates who I am unfamiliar with and who are involved in things I have no interest in. This is a problem with such a large organization rather than with ALA in particular. Also, my experience of ALA office as a LITA IG chair is that most ALA groups chiefly revolve around organizing for midwinter and annual, which I haven't been in a while. For members who don't attend conferences it is very unclear what results from voting.	Don't send me three confirmation emails before you send the notice that elections are open; the notice itself is plenty. Do send me meaningful information about candidates before elections are open, ideally with information about what the offices they're applying for do.  Make it possible for me to participate virtually in the association in a meaningful way.
5/5/2011 10:05:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Can't figure out the impact on me	Reading a bio doesn't tell me who the people are, and they all seem the same in any event. I don't know what they do - they change every year - how do they have any actual impact? Further, how does what they do, impact me directly? Or do they just run an organization?	I would have to understand those things, and I would have to decide to renew my membership. I'm on the fence now.
5/5/2011 10:06:17	Didn't care	I don't feel like ALA represents me particularly well or that what ALA does affects me. I have been a member of ALA and ACRL for quite some time but don't feel like its leadership changes the organization at all. I really just don't care - but I'm glad that getting involved to that level is an option for those who think it's useful.	I can't imagine myself voting.
5/5/2011 10:41:07	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/5/2011 11:04:07	I didn't know there was an election.	I hesitate to say this, but a print reminder in snail mail might help. If an email notice was sent out I didn't get it. I don't know if it had anything to do with my renewal happening recently (and actually having duplicate memberships so I had two renewal dates...).	I get way too much email, but a clear reminder might help. And perhaps being flexible in the renewal status to ensure those who are renewing are able to vote.
5/5/2011 11:28:48	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I'm losing faith in ALA. It seems the only real good that comes out is the result of volunteer efforts and volunteer time. I can't see that my \$200+/year is doing anything other than feeding a bureaucracy that spends more time debating a stance on war in Afghanistan than in ensuring professional competency/training/funding in US libraries. In slogan terms, it feels like ALA thinks globally, but doesn't work locally.	ALA would need to produce quality, low cost opportunities for professional development. The conferences and classes offered by ALA often fail on one or both points.
5/5/2011 11:57:46	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I wanted to make sure that I was voting for good people instead of just randomly selecting names. Election happens during the busiest times of the semester for me. I just lost track of it and the next thing I knew, the election had passed.	
5/5/2011 12:02:05	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		If there was something like this, I didn't see it. I know I received email from some of the candidates, but not all, stating who they were and what they wanted to accomplish. Wish that they all did that so I could have made an informed decision. I just didn't know enough to vote. Or one email listing everyone. Kinda like when we were in grade school and we HAD to sit in the assembly and listen to everyone's speeches. Just don't have time to sit in an open forum to hear it at a certain time, but I can read my email.
5/5/2011 12:06:40	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		An explanation of what each person elected to a position would be doing in that position and how it would impact ALA members, perhaps appended to the email reminding us to vote, would be helpful.
5/5/2011 12:07:08	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/5/2011 12:09:20	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	Mostly I was just unsure of who the candidates were, what they stood for, etc, and other things kept getting in the way of taking the time to inform myself about the candidates.	Possibly more reminders. I'm very active on Twitter, so posting info about the candidates on Twitter would be more effective for me.
5/5/2011 12:11:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I forgot.	Interface is ridiculously cumbersome. Voting goes on too long - By time I received final message, weeks later, I couldn't recall whether I'd voted.	Better interface, better info about what positions do. Don't stretch voting period out over 2 months. I received messages saying voting starting soon, voting starting, and voting still going on. Make it a week long and don't send messages when ballot isn't even active.

5/5/2011 12:12:25	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., timing of election	I am a student and the timing of the election came at a very busy time. I usually don't ignore my privilege of voting, even if I need to familiarize myself with the candidates background and agendas.	Cut the process into sections? Maybe if the information about the candidates was sent out first, and then the notices about voting dates, the process may have been less bulky and more achievable?
5/5/2011 12:17:00	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.	It took place during finals and I was swamped with work & family illness. It just hit bad timing all around for me.	I had a little trouble with accessing my ballot that just added to the time crunch. But I know how to access it for next year now.
5/5/2011 12:18:29	I forgot.		
5/5/2011 13:09:13	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As a student member who is not very involved at the national level, I didn't want to cast a vote for someone randomly. I could have voted but if I don't know the issues or the candidates, so why bother?	Perhaps more information about how things work at the national level. For instance, an email about the candidates and the positions that they hold. Maybe student chapters could be enticed to hold a meeting about how we can be effective at the national level.
5/5/2011 13:33:15	Voting takes too much time., The voting interface was clunky., I forgot.		
5/5/2011 14:13:35	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	The ALA ballot is hopelessly long. I don't really care who the ALA Councilors are, and I'm too busy to spend hours reading bios and statements for all of the candidates for 30+ positions. And this is on top of any Division elections that I also have on my ballot.	The process would have to be greatly simplified, perhaps there should be councilors for particular regions or something, so that people only have to review and vote for 5 councilors instead of 30+. It would also help if I felt like ALA National did anything that really mattered to me.
5/5/2011 14:14:41	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	Unfortunately, trying to finish up my masters' program, voting slipped my mind. I also would have had a hard time with the candidates since I am new to ALA and unfamiliar with names, at this point.	I will be finished with school so I will be more cognizant of upcoming elections.
5/5/2011 16:15:11	I do not vote if I don't take the time to get to know about the candidates. I am a SLIS student (four classes this semester), but also work and have three children. Although I believe getting involved with ALA is very important, I have not been able to set aside the time to get engaged in ALA and its activities.		
5/5/2011 17:32:29	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/5/2011 18:41:40	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	It is difficult to see how ALA Councilors have concretely helped us. A similar situation occurs in off-year Senatorial races. When the President runs, people vote for senators too because they're there anyways. People have a better grasp of what issues are at stake. Here it is very difficult to see how voting benefits us.	
5/6/2011 8:21:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 8:23:43	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 8:27:36	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I vaguely knew the voting was open, but I never thought of it at a time I could have voted on line.	I would like to have a paper ballot. It would be possible to vote when I can't get to the internet.
5/6/2011 8:41:46	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.		
5/6/2011 8:49:43	Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.		
5/6/2011 8:53:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 8:53:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 8:53:50	I started to fill in my ballot, but then wasn't able to get back to complete it before the deadline.	If there had been a way for the selections I did make to be counted, that would have been great. . .	I understand that it makes sense from an environmental standpoint to not print out a multiple page ballot and biographical info for the candidates, but if there were some way to incorporate this into American Libraries, that would be helpful for me. I find it difficult to read a candidate's bio online and then try to remember if I wanted to vote for him or her
5/6/2011 8:56:56	I forgot.	Too much to do! It slipped further and further down my list of email reminders.	Multiple reminders would help - I know I should take responsibility (something we're always talking about employees doing!), but there's so much going on that the more times I see something, the more likely I am to remember it.
5/6/2011 8:57:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It takes a long time to read through all the bios, which I feel I should do if I intend to cast an informed vote. I'm not that involved with ALA, so the election results don't really affect me, and I need to use my time for the things that are more pressing.	Can't think of anything that would change.
5/6/2011 9:00:21	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm sure that some of this is my fault, but I feel disenfranchised with ALA. I rarely use the website and almost never think about it. Because we're so short staffed, I also need to prioritize my time to do the job I was hired to do.	If I saw and felt a direct connection to what I actually do as a librarian and library manager.
5/6/2011 9:01:30	Voting takes too much time., Don't have time, see below	I used to read through all those candidate statements, and really, I couldn't judge what kind of job they would do from reading those. And it took a lot of time if I really wanted to try to analyze what they were saying. Then life got really busy, and I gave up reading those and taking a stab at a quick scan. Then, the next year, I just gave up.	More real, actual information about the candidates that isn't so wordy. Just bullets. What will they do? What is their ideology? Maybe set categories, so I could compare apples to apples. Also, it seems after all that work to elect someone, they spend one year a step away, one year in the position, and then what? Seems like they ought to be around and visible for longer.
5/6/2011 9:09:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It's not clear how ALA's elected officials will make a difference to me personally.	I'm not really sure, short of creating more time in my life!
5/6/2011 9:14:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	The candidates probably deal with other aspects of the profession than those that concern me.	Sorry, friends, I probably won't. Even if candidates deliver more information about themselves to me, it won't make much difference. I have belonged to a lot of professional organizations, and unless I am closely tied to the group and know the key players, I usually don't vote. I get ballots all the time from professional associations and it's just too much. Also, I have met one of the past ALA presidents and was not impressed; I really perceived a lot of self-promotion and very little listening. The information I receive about candidates probably couldn't help voters avoid such a candidate.
5/6/2011 9:22:50	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Hit right at budget preparation time, which is rather intense this year, so didn't have the time to read about the candidates to make a good decision.	
5/6/2011 9:23:09	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 9:26:48	Voting takes too much time., The voting interface was clunky.	I normally do vote but it was just too cumbersome and time-consuming--way too many people, especially those I didn't know and so needed to read about. Was interrupted constantly while trying to do it at work and to be honest did not want to spend my little amount of time at home doing this.	More notices from interest groups about particular people who are running and have similar job types to my own...ie. school librarians, young adult librarianship, etc.
5/6/2011 9:32:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I haven't been around library world long enough to know who people are, and don't have the time to do the research.	I'd have to already be more involved in ALA
5/6/2011 9:40:32	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It's really hard to select candidates who I know nothing about, especially when it comes to the board positions with where there are 50 or more candidates and I'm expected to select 30+.	Simplify - only vote for president, not for the board people
5/6/2011 9:42:22	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 9:56:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I find that my state library association is more involved with the things that really matter to me. I also don't see ALA taking much of a leadership position when it comes to ebooks and other media that are affecting how we operate. In general, I feel it is a bit out of date and I don't relate to the association.	Seeing ALA become more modern in its views and its philosophy
5/6/2011 9:56:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 10:00:33	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The candidates are often just names to me. When I have voted in the past, I didn't notice any significant change or noteworthy accomplishments by those elected that were relevant to me.	Make an effort to demonstrate what the candidates can do FOR the voters on a personal level. Don't wait for the voters to have to search for that information.
5/6/2011 10:03:36	I forgot.		Usually I hear more about the election. I have been really busy and whatever messages I did receive about the election just didn't sink in.
5/6/2011 10:05:29	I forgot., busy & was a low priority item		Create a 'flash mob' voting day & time to get it noticed & done.
5/6/2011 10:08:03	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 10:25:45	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I work 32 hours a week and am working on my MLIS in my spare time. I get bombarded by emails every day, and I just don't have time to keep up with everything. I did see emails come through about voting, but I never got around to reading them or voting.	The process needs to be made as fast, simple, and easy as possible. Perhaps a voter's guide could be compiled with all of the candidates for all divisions of ALA and posted on the Web and/or sent out through regular mail. That is just one idea.

5/6/2011 10:34:54	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		A more convenient way to learn more about candidates.
5/6/2011 10:37:25	I forgot.	I usually vote in every election. This year time just got away from me	
5/6/2011 10:41:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The above pretty much says it all. I'm a new member, a student. I don't know much about the organization. I get emails re voting but I don't have a clear idea of what the elected will be doing and why any one person would do a better / worse job. It seems like such decisions would be better made by those who know the candidates and can assess who is the right person. I don't know anything about any of the candidates. It would be an uninformed choice. If there was more info it was not obvious to me in the emails or I did not have time to review it in the depth I would feel necessary to make an informed choice.	I hope to be more involved after I graduate. Perhaps bias of candidates and details of positions in the body of the emails instead of a link to such. Despite my best intentions to "get to it later" I probably won't. I could also use some info on why it's important to vote. How much difference would electing Bob over Joan actually make. How much impact would they have?
5/6/2011 10:44:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 10:54:35	Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.	I was busy preparing for vacation and making some last minute proposals for end of year funds. I, therefore, did not have time to review candidate biographies and would not vote if I did not know the candidate platforms.	
5/6/2011 10:55:18	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 10:59:15	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I get lots of e-mail. If the voting was simpler I would vote. The bio's are too long. What are the responsibilities.	Have the voting earlier, maybe in early February.
5/6/2011 11:05:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I didn't have any information on the candidates that I felt distinguished one from the other.	For candidates to do more promotion of themselves, and reach out to us voters with a personal touch.
5/6/2011 11:06:42	I forgot.		
5/6/2011 11:20:25	I forgot.		
5/6/2011 11:39:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 11:45:28	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	There are so many people running for offices and its very time consuming to read everyone's credentials.	I think it would be nice at least if people are broken into regions, it would make voting a little easier for those that you know, which most people do and then you browse the information about the others and hope you are making a wise decision.
5/6/2011 11:55:00	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 12:13:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.		
5/6/2011 12:56:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I only received a few emails about voting, all of which were long and not easy to quickly understand the voting procedure	It would be nice for candidates to produce short videos or audio clips about their platform.
5/6/2011 12:57:07	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 13:51:33	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.		I don't know but I am glad you are asking because maybe someone will have a good answer!
5/6/2011 14:06:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/6/2011 14:08:46	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I just didn't feel I knew enough about either candidate. This is my own fault as I made little effort to read the information what was available.	I need to be a better person!
5/6/2011 14:41:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I was out of the country for most of April	Lots of other things vying for my attention	more motivation
5/6/2011 15:25:55	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	This reason, combined with the fact that I get sent a special email with voting credentials, just makes it not worth the hassle. Too many passwords and do-it-yourself logins to keep track of. I generally stay away from ALA's website because I don't find it useful, maybe in my head I associated the election with their website. Ultimately, the payoff for voting wasn't worth the effort of doing so.	I pay my ALA dues out of a general feeling of obligation but don't feel they have much to offer me. I'm more likely to pay attention to PLA issues.
5/6/2011 15:34:46	Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.		
5/6/2011 15:54:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 17:00:05	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I just recently joined ALA (within the year) and I'm not clear about the role of the candidates if elected, and I didn't feel as though I was sufficiently familiar with them to make the best choice. I also don't have a handle on the direction or goals of ALA so as to determine which person would be the best candidate for the job.	I need to become more familiar with the roles that candidates play within ALA and with the institution as a whole. Being a new member, and not having a local chapter to guide and introduce me to the organization, I haven't yet been able to get a real sense of the driving force of the organization as a whole. Since the organization is so large, it is difficult for me to feel intimately connected. I need to do some more research on ALA, but it would also be helpful to have some local outreach to welcome new members - if at all possible.
5/6/2011 18:08:58	I forgot., read the initial batch of material, candidates got a ho hum reaction from me.	Full mailbox dropped the email notice into oblivion; if there was a reminder to vote closer to the deadline, it probably registered but then remembering the long ballots in previous years, I put it off thinking I would get to it later.  Previous years' ballots had a clunky interface; wasn't sure it would be the same this time around. Couldn't remember if I could start/stop/resume voting; if there was something that told me I could do that, I missed it completely. Not seeing a notice made me think I didn't want to start and then quit if I couldn't stop and resume. Took the time to review bios but the time between the initial review and the election was too long.	I would like to see council candidates identified on the ballot (without needing to click to see the info) by their location and library. Not knowing these candidates, it's sometimes a way to balance out the various geographical locations and library types. I do pay closer attention to the candidates located west of the Mississippi and look for candidates from public and school libraries to balance what seems to be a board heavily weighted in academics.  I tend to favor taking surveys that provide the estimated time it should take before I start marking the survey. There's no good way to estimate time for this election as they would range tremendously but a summary of how many divisions, number of council candidates, would be a reminder that I should look at the bios again before starting marking the ballot.  Shortened time between initial messages about election and closing date for voting.
5/6/2011 21:06:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/6/2011 21:29:37	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am fairly new to ALA - I will receive my MS-LIS next month. I have not been involved enough yet to have an opinion on the leadership of the organization.	Some spare time to follow ALA more closely and figure out what issues are important to me. Also perhaps a chance to attend an ALA conference to acquaint myself with the organization in a more meaningful and personal way would help.
5/6/2011 21:54:13	I do not vote online, ever. ALA is very reluctant to send a paper ballot.	Paper ballots give the information one needs in a format that one can carry about and leave where one will see it. I do not trust electronic ballots.	Paper ballots
5/7/2011 7:47:20	The voting interface was clunky., I forgot.	I always think I should get around to it but unless I already know one of the primary candidates by reputation or I get a personal appeal from someone I do know I forget. Also I forget how to vote or can't find the email when I think of it.	I need to already have a connection to a candidate and get a repeat email with clear instructions (including how to recover my login if I lost it) close to the deadline.
5/7/2011 9:16:33	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/7/2011 14:21:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election.		
5/7/2011 17:12:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Not interested in the outcome	I don't feel comfortable voting for someone after just reading their candidate's statements, and it is not enough of a priority for me to do any other research.	I would have to be a much more active member of ALA than I am.
5/7/2011 21:07:29	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I did not know the people that were running	I need to get more involved. It was nothing you did or did not do.
5/8/2011 8:27:30	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Didn't seem to make much difference one way or another.		
5/8/2011 8:34:44	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		

5/8/2011 8:38:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. The voting interface was clunky.	I have voted in the past when I was new(er) to the profession, because it seemed the responsible thing to do. But I didn't know most of the candidates and found that if I knew (or knew of) a candidate, I often ended up voting for them just because I had heard their names before. This hardly seems the best way to go about choosing leaders.	I think I would just need more information about the candidates. I think when I did vote there was some information provided about each candidate, but it seemed superficial. It would be great if ALA or the divisions could host "meet the candidates" blog posts or something leading up to the election.
5/8/2011 8:51:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/8/2011 8:54:25	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I forgot.	I just started my LIS program this semester and voting took place right at the end of the semester, when things are crazy for me as a student--so I didn't feel I had enough time to inform myself about the candidates and vote responsibly.	
5/8/2011 8:54:27	I don't care.	I am one of those members who regularly lets my membership lapse. Then I get a chance to go to the annual conference, which requires me to become a member again to get my library discount. So I join and I grumble about how the cost of membership actually rises every year, which is crazy. And I think about how much more I get out of my local organizations and how much cheaper they are. But I shell out the cash out of my extremely poor bank account so that whatever library sending me gets a small discount on sending me to a conference.  So this is why I don't vote. Because I have voted in the past and it made *absolutely* no difference what so ever. I generally feel like whoever is running for ALA has a lot of time to spare for the profession and that is wonderful. Good for them! I love what ALA does for libraries. But I wish that my library could be a member, not me. I can't afford the out of pocket expenses it takes to belong to ALA annually. I just can't. I have student loans, debt, and many other expenses that just doesn't make it work for me on the national level. So nope, I don't vote for ALA because I will stop being a member as soon as my membership runs out -- that is until a library offers to send me to a national conference again.	I highly doubt I will be a member for the next election. Maybe if the cost of membership dipped or was based on income -- then I would join and vote.
5/8/2011 10:10:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/8/2011 10:25:14	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/8/2011 11:18:10	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I forgot. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I feel far removed from the candidates. I don't know them and am not vested in what they have done. Maybe hard data on what they've done in the past and how that would correlate with their nomination would help me know more about them.	Countdown to election by email
5/8/2011 11:27:49	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I did not take the time to look at who was running... I did receive a few emails about when they would talk, but the times were either inconvenient or I forgot to look at them later. I also don't know where to look to find a concise summary about the candidates or if there is such a thing. I voted last time by "eeny meeny miny moe" and did not feel comfortable doing that again. I also felt that since I was not involved in a committee or roundtable or similar activities that it wouldn't affect me as much if I didn't vote.	A chart or brief description of each candidate's information that would be easy to find would be helpful in familiarizing myself with the candidates.
5/8/2011 12:35:24	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I confess to not reading about the candidates, although on the previous election cycle I did browse some of the biographies attached to the candidates on the ballot. I just don't understand what the ALA does and why the people care about being elected to the position. Probably stems from the fact that most people keep telling me to run away screaming from ALA politics--although having listened in on one of the MidWinter sessions, I can see why. SNORE. Voting for people who don't seem to do anything other than sit around nitpicking policy for hours on end is really unappealing.	If there was an article available about what the elected positions do for the association--and why people should care (or at least be concerned). If I remember to vote next year, I'll probably not know anything about the candidates again, but randomly pick ones to vote for--I feel good about voting, but I also feel like I do the ballot a big disfavor since I have no idea what or who I'm voting in or why. Disingenuous democracy. yo.
5/8/2011 14:37:31	Voting takes too much time. I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I just started a new job and didn't have the time this year to read the candidates' bios and statements and make an informed choice. I have voted previously and intend to vote in the future, but this year was just not possible. Voting itself isn't time-consuming, but doing the reading to vote responsibly does.  I might have voted if I'd had more notice. I haven't been receiving my American Libraries subscription for some reason, so the election snuck up on me.	Ideally, I'd like to have candidate information (such as that published in American Libraries) pushed to me via e-mail instead of having to take the time to search for it myself.  If my American Libraries subscription started coming regularly that would help too.
5/8/2011 14:59:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/8/2011 15:14:51	I am not a librarian and may only be a member of ALA temporarily so I didn't want to prejudice election results.	I may be wrong but I feel ALA is mostly for librarians. Since I'm not one, I felt I could be voting in ways that might not serve the majority of the membership well.	Continued membership in ALA and more knowledge of the candidates/issues.
5/8/2011 15:33:25	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I'm in my first semester of my MLIS program, and didn't feel familiar enough with the candidates.	Spend more time reading about the candidates. The election took place close to finals/end of semester.
5/8/2011 15:36:07	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		Strong, personable candidate with a clearly explained plan
5/8/2011 16:51:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. The voting interface was clunky. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do. I didn't feel that different candidates in office would make a difference to how ALA works (or doesn't).	I didn't recognize the candidate names; when I attempted to follow the link to vote, the interface dumped me out. When I tried to get in again a couple days later, the link was broken. It was more effort than I thought it was work to even attempt to troubleshoot it, and God forbid the ALA site be easy to navigate.  need to, for a change, make the web site navigation transparent and easy to use (we're LIBRARIANS... why do I always find so many broken links on my so-called professional organization's page?)	Frankly, ALA would have to matter to me.  It doesn't, right now. At the moment, it's a necessary line on my resume; my library pays the rather expensive membership fee, and can't afford to send me to its conferences. I've formed far more rewarding professional relationships on Twitter in the past year and a half than I have in ALA in the last 15 years I've belonged.  Where is ALA's voice and political weight in the HarperCollins/Overdrive mess? (I'm guessing they've formed a committee to study it.) Where is ALA's guidance on the impact of digital books and cloud computing on librarianship's role in modern society? Where is ALA, when conservative politicians are calling us overpaid luxuries and trying to shut our doors?  ALA should be informing *me* of the issues that are important to my profession; they should be at the forefront, and right now they're about a month post-pub. I don't vote in ALA elections because I don't feel they're relevant to my professional life at all; they only seem to be relevant to people who choose to participate in ALA politics.  When I feel like I know what I'm voting for, and that my vote has any impact at all on my career or librarianship's role in American society, I'll vote in the ALA elections again.  (Cynical? Yeah, you betcha.)
5/8/2011 17:19:24	Voting takes too much time.	I know I should take more time to vote, but there are a lot of candidates that I feel I have to read about before I make a decision. I voted in the past and remember that going through the list of councilor candidates was time consuming.	More candidates running that I feel so passionate about that I MUST take the time to vote! Maybe more information about what the individual councilors have done, why they are running for re-election, or why running for the first time.
5/8/2011 21:20:47	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. ALA elections not a priority	This is a busy time for children's librarians (National Library Week, Dia de los Ninos, Children's Book Week, planning for Summer Reading, my library has an essay contest going on, etc.), and ALA voting isn't a top priority for me. (sorry!)	
5/9/2011 0:29:03	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As a full time grad student working towards my MLIS I'm just trying to keep up with my classes and still find time to sleep, it's difficult for me to find time to investigate on my own about the ALA candidates. Also, I feel like I know nothing about the politics of the organization and thus would find it difficult to make an informed decision. Would it be better if I just randomly chose people instead of not voting? That's pretty much what's holding me back, but once I graduate I hope to become much better informed!	Essentially, be better informed and have bucketloads more time.
5/9/2011 6:12:26	Voting takes too much time. I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I forgot.	It took me so long to actually figure out how to access my ballot and then find the email with my password, that I didn't have time to read through the ballot and vote. I forgot to go back when I did have more time.	You should be able to vote while logged in to the ALA site, without any additional passwords. Detailed instructions for voting should be available on the election page.
5/9/2011 7:40:12	Voting takes too much time. I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't vote unless I am well informed about the candidates, and given the relatively low priority ALA has in my day-to-day life, I did not have time to research the candidates. I do read enough blogs to know that the election was happening and even some of the people who were running, but I don't think reading a candidate's blog should necessarily translate into a vote for him or her.	I would have to believe that it matters enough to spend time on it. Aren't most of the candidates just looking to add a line to their resume in order to land that next high profile job?

5/9/2011 7:52:06	Many activities at my institution challenged me to get the voting done by the deadline. Although I did begin the process.		
5/9/2011 7:53:30	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As just a regular, not-so-involved ALA member, I don't know these people and the small bios online and in American Libraries are not really enough for me to make an informed decision. I don't like voting in ANY election if I'm not familiar with the candidates and their platforms.  Also, I haven't been an ALA member for very long (3 years), but I still have very limited knowledge of what the point of ALA officers actually is. I don't think ALA does a very good job overall of educating it's new members on the point of the officers and why it's important to vote.	Better education; better campaigning. I want to know about the candidates, why they are running, and what they believe. One or two articles in American Libraries or posted on the website isn't enough. I rarely read that stuff anyway because it's not that interesting or relevant to me.
5/9/2011 7:56:51	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do, not a high priority for me	I'm still just a student and don't really feel like a real member. Other things going on distracted me from voting.	I'd have to be paying better attention...
5/9/2011 8:14:16	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. The voting interface was clunky. Not very interested	I used to vote in ALA elections, but (except for the actual section I belong to & where I usually know the candidates) it was difficult to know much about the candidates. After a while, all the candidates for ALA president, council, etc. largely started to sound alike in their statements. And it was a lot of trouble flipping back and forth through statements and election forms. I figure most ALA candidates have similar agendas, but really don't know.	I still don't feel very connected to ALA administration. Not sure what would motivate me to vote.
5/9/2011 8:20:24	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It takes time that I don't have to figure out who to vote for.	If there were a "voter's guide" where all info was in one place, that would be helpful. If you already produce such a thing, I've never seen it or heard of it. The timing would have to be right. Why can't voting be open the week of ALA when I'm away from the office and focused on ALA things?
5/9/2011 8:35:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I do receive notices regarding up-coming election, candidate bios, and reminders to vote but somehow I still fail to get it done before the deadline. Being unfamiliar with candidates means I would need to read about them. Never get around to doing that what with all that's on my plate--it always gets pushed to "tomorrow" and is not seen as a priority. Also, I feel little to no direct impact no matter who is in office, so there is an element of "this doesn't matter" or one could say, a "whatever" attitude about this.	If there was something to read that explained the accomplishments of past officers and how their work had a direct impact ("we wouldn't have such and such today if it weren't for...") so that one can see how this is important. Also, better communication regarding who are the candidates (bios, etc), how they differ from each other, what they would bring to the position for which they are running, how voting for one over the other would really mean something. Given reports of low voter turn-out, it seems that this process may have little meaning to people. You need to bring true meaning to this process so people can feel a connection, like this is important. And not just important on an abstract level. You'd need to connect it to real life issues that people are dealing with. Make it applicable to their daily work/professional lives. Otherwise, as with any political election, voter turn out will be low, because people just don't care or don't see how it applies to them or how it will help them.
5/9/2011 8:55:16	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		More detailed information about the candidates (their platforms, their goals, the implications of their election...) and a greater personal stake in the outcome. I have never felt very connected to ALA, so it's harder for me to feel urgency about who the leaders are. (In contrast, I always make a point of voting in ACRL elections, because I feel a stronger connection to that organization.)
5/9/2011 8:58:21	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	I got very busy and did not get to vote before the deadline.	The minute it is open I will vote.
5/9/2011 9:29:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't feel invested enough in ALA to spend the time learning about the candidates. I also don't have much reason to care who gets elected to the huge number of offices. What difference does it make? They're all qualified people.	
5/9/2011 10:00:51	Voting takes too much time. I was unfamiliar with the candidates, takes time to vote responsibly. I have always voted in the past just too busy in work & personal life this year		You probably already provide links to the candidate from the ballot. It is all just a matter of time and priorities for me.
5/9/2011 11:45:40	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Familiarizing myself with all the candidates and the positions they're up for (not just titles, but WHAT THEY WOULD DO) would take too much time. I'd thought about it, but never got around to it. I don't believe in just voting for people / offices I don't understand	i think that ALA governance is too complicated --- too many positions, too many sections --- it all feels like a meaningless bureaucracy. Most sections spend their time just drafting and redrafting their by-laws, in 3 yr cycles. It all feels kind of pointless. i pay my dues so i can list my ALA membership on my resume thus demonstrate my "commitment to my profession" - until employers wise up and realize its meaningless.
5/9/2011 12:26:28	I forgot.	We have 1/2 the staff and so I had to e-mail to my home and I just forgot and didn't have time.	Budget increases and more staff
5/9/2011 12:42:49	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The ALA is some ambiguous, amorphous organization that I really have no contact with. I don't see how it helps me in the day to day; it focuses almost solely on public libraries, and some of its stances are frankly embarrassing and ridiculous. (Why in the world does a library organization need to pass resolutions on unrelated political happenings? A resolution on the war in Iraq? Really?) I guess I feel that the ALA is out of touch. They talk a good game, but it's the same game they've been talking for the last twenty years, albeit with a different vocab. I can't think of a demonstrable difference they've made in my life, professional or personal, and if they have, they have failed to communicate it.  Further, the membership prices are ridiculous, the sign-up is cumbersome, and the ALA itself is boring, too bogged down in bureaucratic crap to actually effect any real change. My membership is up for renewal in May, and the only reason I'm considering renewing it is that it seems to be generally accepted that you should have an ALA membership on your CV.  The ALA says it advocates on a national level--I'd really like to see that. Can we have some honest library marketing up in this hizzouse? Can we convince a middle class America that they should still fund us when they don't actually utilize our services? Can we stop arguing about internet porn? Can we adopt technologies within the same year they launch, instead of forming an ineffective committee with a ridiculously long, dry acronym in order to explore the possibility of maybe someday perhaps implementing it?  I feel like the ALA is stale and static, so I don't really care about voting. The end.	The ALA would have to actually become relevant to my life.
5/9/2011 13:13:50	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do, I didn't really care.	I didn't want or need to spend any time worrying about candidates for positions I know nothing about, especially in an organization that I don't feel at all connected to.	Well, I'll need to get a real library job that pays me a living wage so that I can even be a member of ALA during the next election. But even if I do, I won't vote if I don't feel like ALA is serving me -- ALA needs to put out more information about how new members, especially those without fancy job titles, can get involved and become useful members.
5/9/2011 15:51:47	I don't feel like my voting would really matter	This is such a ginormous organization that I feel very disconnected to. I really don't think my one tiny voice matters.	
5/9/2011 16:32:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		is there a central page where each of the candidates put their materials? I did get one flyer on a set at the ACRL convention, but I was not interested in a campaign, I was learning something else. Perhaps each candidate can have a short video outlining their premise/agenda and they all go out to the electorate at the same time?
5/9/2011 18:40:08	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I always vote in federal, state, and local elections. The ALA elections are wonderful and important, and if a friend asked me to vote for them, I would. In fact, I take it seriously enough that I would prefer those who have read the literature about the candidates do the voting. I am so busy with work, overtime, friends, family, professional development, errands, housekeeping, and so on... I can barely squeeze in everything as it is. I'm guessing that with the job cutbacks, I'm not the only one who is doing 2 jobs at work, while supporting an unemployed adult at home. Honestly, it feels a little out of touch that this survey was even created, but I do realize that the intent was not to be naive about how stressed out everyone is in light of this slow recovery from recession.	If a friend asked me to vote for them, I would. Or if I could afford to work less overtime. I'm sure that I'll vote religiously once I retire in 30 years.
5/10/2011 10:33:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I intended to vote and in preparation for doing so, I wanted to read up on the candidates. In my opinion if you do not know anything about the candidates and cannot make an educated selection, there is really no point in voting. I will admit that I waited until the elections were almost over before I really got serious about voting in the elections. Unfortunately, every time I planned to read about the candidates something came up that prevented me from doing so. Before I knew it, it was the last day of the election and I did not feel that I should vote considering I knew nothing about the candidates.	Nothing. There was plenty of notice on the part of ALA to publicize the elections and send out reminders. The decision not to vote because I felt unprepared for voting is due to my poor planning and nothing more.

5/10/2011 12:42:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.		
5/11/2011 7:08:21	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.	ALA election falls during a busy time for us: annual literacy fundraiser, National Library Week programs, grant application deadlines. Also, since our conferences/travel budget line was zeroed out, I can only attend conferences in California. I lacked the time to review candidates' biographies and platforms.	Economic improvement: in flusher times, I had enough staff and budget support to maintain and expand library services and programs AND attend conferences. Now when I'm not on the front line, I'm chasing money and watching my pennies. I had enough time to vote in past years.
5/11/2011 10:12:15	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I also have not been working in the library field since graduating from my MLIS program (despite a 5 month long full time library job hunt), and am feeling disconnected from the library community in general.	
5/11/2011 10:18:47	Voting takes too much time., The voting interface was clunky.	Reading all the PDF's online is clunky	paper ballots
5/11/2011 10:19:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I used to be a regular attendee and participant in ALA going to both Mid-Winter and Annual Conferences. Costs have skyrocketed and I feel a disconnect with the organization and its goals viz-a-viz my current role in a very small library. I keep waiting for ALA to move to webcasting or some other technology that would allow me to participate but not be physically present. I also feel NJLA needs to take this route. It is getting harder to get out and be there.	
5/11/2011 10:20:40	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am generally unfamiliar with the candidates in a nation-wide election. Reading their statements takes a lot of time and in the past after having done so, I felt there was not a lot of disparity among the candidates and since they all advocate for libraries, am satisfied with the results no matter who wins.	
5/11/2011 10:21:22	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 10:29:35	do not alike to do things like this online		
5/11/2011 10:41:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Don't get much of anything for my membership anyway	would need some sort of connection with organization
5/11/2011 11:01:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 11:27:32	The voting interface was clunky.	I tried to vote and it wouldn't allow me to send it., I don't know why. I didn't know what to do next, so I did the easiest thing - nothing. Sorry.	A workable option.
5/11/2011 11:27:57	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 11:32:57	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 12:12:12	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I believed in informed voting. I renewed my ALA membership after a two-year hiatus very shortly before the election. I didn't have time to familiarize myself with the candidates and believed the election would be better if I refrained from voting.	Easily available information on the candidates and the positions they are running for.
5/11/2011 12:15:17	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 12:55:26	Voting takes too much time.	Not a permitted use of work time. Didn't feel like it when I got home.	
5/11/2011 14:07:12	Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting.	I had an illness.	To be healthy.
5/11/2011 14:13:14	I didn't know there was an election.	I was not sent an ALA email with the hyperlink to vote. There was no notification sent to me. I requested the voting link, but no one responded to my request from ALA.	Get the email and I will vote.
5/11/2011 14:14:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.		
5/11/2011 14:15:52	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 14:21:25	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I retired over 15 years ago and no longer know any of the people who are running for office. I continue to belong to ALA to support the profession.	
5/11/2011 14:31:08	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Reading a statement by a candidate doesn't give me a clear idea of what they think they can do. So, I just don't vote.	There would need to be a clear reason for choosing.. liking someone's stand on an issue more than the other persons.
5/11/2011 14:41:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't like to vote just for the sake of voting, but I didn't know how to learn more about the candidates and their positions either. Therefore, instead of voting without the facts, I chose to not vote.	If there was an easy to find guide or space for the candidates to introduce themselves, speak about what the plan on doing, and such, I would vote.
5/11/2011 14:49:18	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 14:54:38	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Being new to ALA I didn't know anything about the candidates or what their positions are supposed to do.	Something more than just emails. Maybe if there were some you tube videos on the candidates. If there were I missed them.
5/11/2011 15:13:52	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am still very new to the library profession and don't quite feel ready to dive right into ALA. Because I'm still dipping my toes in, I want to get a good feel for things before I start throwing my opinions around. Don't worry, though. Give me a year or two to really feel comfortable calling myself a "librarian" and I'll get more involved and start voting.	Can you write an "ALA for Dummies" book?
5/11/2011 15:17:21	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I just did not have time to read the descriptions of the candidates. And I guess on some level I don't feel that it is worth my time; it is not a primary priority in my life.	I guess I would have to feel like it is really worth my time, or that it was okay to take up work time reading all of the candidates' descriptions (as if I had lots of free time at work.). Time at home is at a premium as I have small children -- no time to do much of anything except the chores, food shopping, and child care-related things. Reading up on the candidates and voting in the ALA election would have to seem REALLY important. Or really fast and easy to do.
5/11/2011 15:17:27	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election., The voting interface was clunky., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	In a nutshell, it all boils down to this: I don't like ALA, and the only reason I remain a member is for the line on my CV.	Something cosmic
5/11/2011 15:17:46	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Without knowing what one person is going to do over another, I had no impetus to vote for one person over another. I assumed that the people who do know about the tons of candidates would be able to make a much more informed decision than I would, especially as my vote would have largely been based on whose name I liked the most.	Make it easy, break down viewpoints clearly and in an easily understood manner (perhaps a chart of views/things a candidate will do - blocks of text for 30 candidates is a very poor way to do it).
5/11/2011 15:19:28	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., don't know the issues well enough to have an opinion on a candidate	Being no longer an active librarian/library director since 1996, I have not kept current on the candidates or the issues. It would be unfair for me to judge a person just by his/her own blurb. I love to keep somewhat current by scanning/reading American Libraries and American Libraries Direct because libraries have been and are my passion. I continue to be active in the library field, even though I'm 78 years old -- serving as President of a local Friends of the Los Angeles Public Library branch, and as Webmaster of the Assn. of Jewish Libraries of So. Calif. I am an ALA life member, and am very pleased that ALA continues to develop and thrive. Thank you for all that you do....	Nothing - I would not vote in any future election. You're welcome to remove my name from your election voting list. Barbara Y. Leif - byleif@social.rr.com (#40793)
5/11/2011 15:35:53	didn't have time to read up on the candidates		
5/11/2011 15:45:56	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	unclear what the expectations for candidates for council were: i.e. what qualities to look for in a good candidate. Didn't know any of the candidates either -- so not at all clear what to select for. Also, tons of candidates, limited time to read the bios. Also not super clear how to vote for the council candidates.	should separate out presidential from council elections; perhaps have blocks of candidates (or staggered tranches??) so there are fewer candidates standing for the position.
5/11/2011 15:48:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I'm not convinced that it matters.		
5/11/2011 16:02:46	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Without a deeper knowledge of the candidates I did not feel qualified to choose.	Perhaps a candidate forum (gotomeeting) or something similar that could be archived so members could view it at their convenience covering previous experiences, long range goals, important issues etc. may make an impact. Voting definitely is not too hard and doesn't take too much time so those who vote not even be considered factors affecting my lack of voting.
5/11/2011 16:17:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I guess I'm just not overly sure why I should care and how the elections would affect me. I haven't had time to investigate it enough to make an informed decision.	

5/11/2011 16:21:03	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	But most importantly, I have no sense that my life or work is immediately impacted by voting for ALA candidates. There is no sense that ALA is full of BAD people, so I guess I always assume that whomever wins will be ok.	How about an iPad?
5/11/2011 16:22:57	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Time!	It's one of those things that you keep meaning to do (read about the candidates, their policies, how they want to make changes) but every day job related issues get in the way, then the kids need picking up from school, the dog needs walking, the groceries need to be bought and cooked....	I'd probably need to see a super easy way to vote - the way you can sign an online petition or send an email to your senator via Facebook etc.
5/11/2011 16:24:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., .	Other = I was in the midst of trying to renew my membership and frustrated trying to deal with remembering logins and passwords. Other = There didn't seem to be enough difference between candidates to make voting feel essential.	I have voted in every other ALA election as long as I've been a member. I don't necessarily intend to *not* vote. This was just a blah year.
5/11/2011 16:33:28	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., Timing	For school librarians, this is the absolute worst time of the year for extra duties. Paired with the fact that I was unfamiliar with most of the candidates/had no preference, voting didn't really seem like a priority and I completely forgot about it.	A more convenient time would be helpful, as well as a simplified voting process. The emails we got made it seem like a lot of work.
5/11/2011 16:47:54	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Don't really feel a part of ALA	I know there were places to find out more about the candidates, but the voting came at the same time as the end of the semester. It left me with the choice of finding out more or finishing up my finals. Finals always win.  I love the informational emails I receive from the various groups I'm technically a part of, but it's more like having a subscription rather than being a member of organizations. It feels that if you don't (read in my case as: can't) get to conferences, then there isn't much to do. How can I make decisions about an element of an organization that I don't really feel part of?	It seems to happen rather suddenly. Like "ALA Elections Soon" then before I knew it "Voting happening now." I didn't feel like I had time to learn about anyone or anything having to do with the election.  This is my second year of membership and honestly I just don't know what I can do as a member. When I join social organizations they have a checklist or tips for how to get started and get involved. Perhaps this was sent to me in the beginning and I managed to miss it somehow, but a little guidance would go a long way, especially for new members who can't attend the meet and greets at the conferences.
5/11/2011 17:00:08	I forgot.	The election does happen to fall at one of the busiest times of year for us -- when we're doing major spring events and planning for the summer. But then again, every time of year is busy!	I need to take the responsibility myself -- I got tons of reminders, and saw it everywhere, just totally forgot. I should put a reminder in my calendar or something!
5/11/2011 17:18:48	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.		
5/11/2011 17:38:12	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm not very active with ALA activities, so I did not feel comfortable voting when I was uneducated on the candidates and the issues they would be addressing.	Really I would need to be educated about the roles and issues for each candidate, but it is unlikely that I would dedicate much time to accomplishing this.
5/11/2011 17:40:15	it seldom matters who wins- the organization still does not offer much to front-line staff	ALA officials seem to only offer theories, not practices, and not something I can quickly plug into my work place and use. This means it is largely for policy makers (administration and specialists) and not for the worker bees who have the task of EXECUTING these grand ideas.	I would need to see how any particular ALA official did something other than churn out endless policy pieces and explanations. If they are actually doing something FOR ME, RIGHT NOW, then I would care about who got elected. Since no one does anything for me (other than print out the e-mail newsletter, and I believe that position is not elected), then I really have no reason to vote.
5/11/2011 17:43:04	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Not interested	ALA is the strangest organization in that, while expansive enough to include many positions for people to run for, I never hear what impact these positions have on the association.	I really don't know. ALA is just one of those organizations that I know I'm supposed to belong to because I'm a librarian, and I know the association has done many great things...but it does very little for me, personally. I can barely afford my annual fees, but I'm told by my boss that I'm expected to join. I will never be able to afford one, much less two annual conferences. I can't get involved with the organization because committees require conference attendance for participation. So, I shell out a lot of money for no return. That, in a nutshell, is why I don't vote. I get so little out of being a member, that I have a reciprocal amount of interest in who represents me in these elected positions.
5/11/2011 17:44:44	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Although I'm a member, I'm not involved with ALA.	I feel connected with NJLA but have no real commitment to ALA.	I'd need to see a positive ALA presence in NJ and feel that my vote mattered. I'd want to know the candidates personally or at least feel a connection with them.
5/11/2011 17:51:58	Don't see the benefit	I don't see much benefit to my membership in ALA other than I feel obligated to be a member as a library professional so that I can list it on my CV. The only reason I continue is for the registration discount for ACRL. I'm even questioning that at this point. This lack of interest in ALA is unique as I am typically active in the organizations with which I'm associated.	To see some relevancy/benefit to ALA.
5/11/2011 17:55:49	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., not informed enough to make good choices	I am very poorly paid and work 3 jobs to survive. All ALA participation is pay to play And very expensive to boot--I can barely manage my basic membership fee and certainly can't pay extra for roundtables, committee membership, or any other special interests or involvement. I can't afford to participate enough to be informed enough to vote on anything. Even the professional publications are completely out of reach. Too bad I can't find Those at my public library!	Either the ALA gets real about the purchasing power of the rank and file so they can participate as equals to their richer colleagues, or my employers realize my fabulosity and give me an enormous raise so I can buy my way to informed status.
5/11/2011 17:59:38	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/11/2011 18:00:30	several of the above	Fortunately, this is the first time that I have not voted in the ALA election. Voting does take time; I do not personally know the candidates and have to take the time to find out about them and make an informed decision. Voting occurs at the end of our fiscal year and it is always a very busy month; this year things just slid away; no one was more surprised than I was to read the announcement of who was elected. The deadline was past and I didn't even know it.	28 hour days? Elections to occur in a different month? My place of employment changes? Actually, I cannot think of anything practical. I have always voted before and can only hope this is a one time aberration.
5/11/2011 18:44:41	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	While I knew there was an election going on sometime in the near future, I wasn't sure when exactly it was happening and missed voting. I also didn't really know who the candidates were at all and didn't have time to research them properly to make an educated vote.	I would need to receive an e-mail on the day of voting (perhaps a week's-worth of voting time? Give people more of a chance than just one day?) with my ballot. It's possible that something like this happened this year and that this is the way that we were notified, but if that's the case, it didn't work because I didn't notice the email.
5/11/2011 18:59:32	Voting takes too much time., The voting interface was clunky., candidates are not appealing	I've felt for a while that the leadership of ala does not represent me, just look at council if there was ever any doubt.	
5/11/2011 19:00:43	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., not a U.S. resident	I'm a Canadian MLIS student doing my degree online at a U.S. school. I have an ALA membership because the journal helps keep me informed about current issues which are often the subject of discussion in class. I'm a member of my own provincial association and am active there. I am not active in the ALA.	I would have to feel that I has a stake in the results. This is not likely as I am not a U.S. resident and don't feel I have the right to make decisions affecting a U.S. organization.
5/11/2011 19:27:04	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I honestly did mean to vote and got my ballot mostly filled out. The council completely lost me. There were so many candidates and I didn't want to only vote just for people I knew. So I stopped to do more research, but then totally forgot to finish before the deadline.	Fewer candidates for council, or some easier way to tell who is who.
5/11/2011 19:31:28	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I don't care about it enough to bother.	How do you choose between two people you know nothing about to do a job you also know nothing about that will have no impact on you personally?	I can't think of anything.
5/11/2011 19:36:19	Voting takes too much time.	I actually read the information about each candidate. I have voted every year except the last two years when my library had to cut staff. I don't feel that I can any longer take the time to be an informed voter so I let the people who can be do the voting.	The economy improve and we hire more staff so we aren't six people doing eight people's work.
5/11/2011 19:37:38	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	With the exception of President-elect, it really does not matter to me. The people running obviously want to volunteer there time, and what happens when the lose the election. How many candidates does the organization lose from other committees when these chose not to be involved.	While I should have voted for the big ones, I just did not make the time as the process to vote for all of them is too much.
5/11/2011 19:38:30	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I try to remember to vote and feel that it is important to do so, but since most of the names in most positions are unfamiliar to me, I have to read the bios and that just takes time! It was such a busy time of the semester then and the deadline came and went.	Maybe earlier timing in the semester for those of us acad. librarians. The interface could be improved by having the bio show up by clicking on a plus sign beside the candidate name so that you can open and collapse them as needed (don't collapse using spy is one way how). Just keep doing a good job and I have to do mine and vote!
5/11/2011 19:50:08	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 20:03:56	I forgot.	super busy in new job, and didn't have time to prepare decision, meanwhile forgot about the timing	probably will vote; reminders help, but if not time to think about who's running, not going to vote out of ignorance
5/11/2011 20:18:39	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I feel a very small cog in this organization. I didn't recognize the name of anyone except Steven Bell who was a shoe-in. Taking the time to make a decision by reading everyone's bio would be too time consuming	nothing, I figure the hard core members have this well covered

5/11/2011 20:39:25	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Researching the many, many people running for offices and panels and tables and chairs and etc...takes a lot of time I don't have to wade through a lot of political posturing that I get enough of during regular public elections.	a streamlined way for the candidates to get basic information to the voters without all the filler. And we need to be to narrow down the choices rather than have to wade through an entirely too big and bulky spreadsheet. I did try to research and generate enough interest to motivate myself to vote, but I couldn't find the information that I wanted about the candidates in a format I could tailor to fit my needs.  I do, however, appreciate the enormous amount of effort that went into creating the spreadsheet that was available. Unfortunately, it was way too bulky and awkward to work with in a timely way.
5/11/2011 20:47:23	The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Can't distinguish between the people running for office.	Currently there are too many round tables, interest groups, etc. to keep track of who's doing what in ALA. When I read the biographies of the people running for offices, they all say the same thing. White middle-aged women talking about how they think libraries are important. ALA elections are now similar to televised presidential debates.  Help me find a job, and I will vote for you. Then you can go about the business of doing whatever it is that you do at ALA.	Streamline ALA! Librarians are being laid off around the country, and ALA keeps forming more groups and panels. Sorry, but it's hard to take ALA seriously while I'm out of work.  I have been a member of ALA, PLA and the Texas Library Association for the last ten years. I have received more practical, hands-on information from my state library association than from either ALA or PLA. Most of my professional colleagues recognize that the state library conference is where you go to get information, and the ALA conference is where the higher-level administrators go to catch up with old friends. Still not quite sure what PLA does, but they do send me a lot of emails for conferences and meetings that they expect me to pay for IN ADDITION TO my PLA dues. I will probably cut them off first.
5/11/2011 20:49:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It doesn't matter to me who the ALA president is. We are all librarians working toward the same cause, the betterment of libraries.  Since I did not read about the candidates, I didn't vote.	Find a way to learn about the candidates in a fun and exciting way.  Give me a reason to vote for one person over another.
5/11/2011 20:57:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/11/2011 21:13:25	I didn't know there was an election.		
5/11/2011 21:26:59	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	ALA is so big that I don't feel like I know who to vote for, who would be effective, what they would do, and whether it matters.	I need to feel a personal connection with the process.
5/11/2011 21:55:14	Voting takes too much time.	It takes a long time to even skim the information about each candidate. I did intend to get to it but time got away from me. . . . I hate to say it but it was easier when it was a paper ballot - you could just pick it up and read a few, where being online it is efficient but since I am on the computer all day at work I am not inclined to want to spend a lot of time on it outside of work. I do feel badly that I didn't vote as I think this is the first year I missed.	Could we have shorter candidates' statements? The longer statements could be available as links for anyone who wants to read more, but it is daunting to have all these long statements to read. Maybe the candidates could pick the 3 most important things they want the voters to know about them. . . .
5/11/2011 22:56:30	apathy	I'm ambivalent about whether or not to continue participating in ALA. I'm an MSJIS holder (recent) who doesn't work in a library (I use my library skills supporting research) the organization feels huge and I feel lost in it. Plenty of nice people are involved, and all are very welcoming, but I'm just not that into committees and throwing myself into an organization that's so giant and in which my own interests are a teensy drop in the bucket. I got the emails about voting and it just seemed like too much time & effort for something I'm not that invested in.	Strangely, someone I went to school with was running and so I felt like, that should have been something that would make me vote. But no. So, I guess I would need to see myself as a part of ALA, and I just don't. At the same time, I don't feel like ALA should try to be all things to all people. It's not you, it's me?
5/11/2011 23:45:59	I didn't know there was an election.		
5/11/2011 23:53:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., unemployment	Just didn't get around to another online task. My internet taking too much of the budgeted time for a day	Meet the candidates at state convention
5/12/2011 3:01:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am a MLIS student, and didn't feel that voting by name only would be fair or wise. Once I can become more active in the organization, and know more about candidates, then I'll vote.	See above answer
5/12/2011 3:45:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 4:03:15	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am retired and do not know as much about the issues or candidates as I should.	
5/12/2011 4:23:54	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 4:32:36	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The emphasis seemed to be between two candidates in the literature but when I clicked to vote and saw the rest of the ballot, I realized I was completely unprepared for the majority of what was there. Lame excuse but I tried this year, unlike last. If there was a prep ballot for early review with links to what has been written about issues or candidates, that would be a lot more helpful.	Please allow us to prep-like homework-for such an extended ballot rather than springing a bunch of diverse topics and people like a pop quiz.
5/12/2011 4:38:51	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	With so many candidates for ALA offices, it was far easier to see bios and do voting when information was sent on paper, so one could easily move back and forth in the data and compare qualifications.	Perhaps send the bios/backup in paper, and then have the actual voting online?
5/12/2011 4:40:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I didn't want to vote without being informed, but kept forgetting to read up on the candidates until it was too late and I missed the deadline.	I would need to find time to research the candidates. A tool to research & rank simultaneously might be helpful given the large pool of candidates.
5/12/2011 4:57:54	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't really understand what the elected positions of ALA do, and thus, why it matters who fills these positions. I also don't know much about the candidates. Additionally, I wish the election took place during the summer, when work is less busy and I could actually spend some time to think about whom to vote for.	
5/12/2011 5:03:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Very little impact on my professional life	The ALA behemoth that keeps growing is really just ridiculous. My voting for junior sub-councilor, which might have 10 candidates about which I know nothing, for a position about which I know nothing, has nothing to do with the reality of my job.	Relevance. And for ALA to actually do something.
5/12/2011 5:07:46	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	For as long as I have been a member of ALA (over 20 years) it has not mattered who was in any office with regards to the my job. I do not attend ALA meetings, so the function of the organization makes little difference to me.	I would need to see some relevancy to my day to day work.
5/12/2011 5:11:54	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	The email was buried in my inbox and, by the time I found it, it was too late. Also, I seldom recognize any of the names and feel as if I'm voting blind anyway.	I probably will vote - If I remember to do it as soon as the initial email comes in.
5/12/2011 5:12:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I'm in a temporary position at a library that doesn't stress professional organization involvement, and we're outside of any major metropolitan area with the number of libraries it takes to feel the dynamism of true involvement in ALA, so I guess my relative isolation is one reason, too.	Maybe fewer candidates, so I'd feel like reading through the statements/vitae.
5/12/2011 5:14:32	I forgot.		
5/12/2011 5:19:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 5:20:18	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I've been a member of ALA for more than 25 years. I think I voted in less than 8 elections during that time period (most early in my career.) I quickly burned out. None of the people elected seemed relevant to what I do. I have remain involved with discussion groups in 3 different Divisions and have been asked to run for national offices. I couldn't care less. The discussion group level (now interest groups) where people who actually do the work can share ideas is the most helpful part of ALA. Division wide presentations can also be interesting, but they are so crowded and uncomfortable that I don't attend them much any more.	I would never vote in an ALA election. If the divisions broke off and became separate entities, I would vote.
5/12/2011 5:23:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 5:25:48	no difference between candidates	They all say the same things, same buzzwords, in no way deviating from the party line. What's to choose?	Have a candidate who is wise, understands the times, and understands what the public truly wants out of their library - not what the ALA Social Engineers Party wants.
5/12/2011 5:32:36	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., it was not of interest to me		I would probably have to get much more involved in a round table.
5/12/2011 5:34:20	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 5:35:28	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		

5/12/2011 5:41:33	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	The association is so big that my vote doesn't really matter. I was really turned off by the Presidents' request for contributions to their pet projects for the last few years.	Make me feel like I am needed in this organization and not just for my money.
5/12/2011 5:46:06	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 5:46:13	The voting interface was clunky.	I truly wish we'd go back to the paper ballots, which are much easier to read and skim.	Paper ballots
5/12/2011 5:47:38	I prefer paper ballots		paper ballots
5/12/2011 5:49:42	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, The voting interface was clunky.		
5/12/2011 5:50:19	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	There are too many offices so the decision is not as critical as it would be if there were fewer people in charge. It would take too long to find out about each candidate. I could vote for only those people I already knew but that would not be fair to others.	Restructuring of ALA governance.
5/12/2011 5:52:10	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	I have been asked not to do the voting during my work hours, which I can understand, but I then forget to go through the ballot and bios when off work.	It would help me if the bios could be sent with more time to evaluate before the election.
5/12/2011 5:53:48	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 5:56:02	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't know who any of these people are or what they are supposed to do. I could research it--I *am* a librarian--but that takes so much time!	
5/12/2011 6:00:43	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It takes forever to read the bios of candidates one doesn't know so I choose not to vote. I only vote for people I know some thing about their qualifications.	
5/12/2011 6:01:28	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	The time of the ALA election fell during our state test window and I was busy with that and did not have time to familiarize myself with the candidates. I don't vote for people I know nothing about. When I have read all the information provided, it takes a lot of time.	If I could have the information on the candidates earlier, I could read it early and make an informed decision.
5/12/2011 6:01:32	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	It takes a lot of time, was going to do it at home, did not know the candidates, then by the time I remembered, it was too late to vote. I did better at voting when we had the paper ballot pamphlet with the candidate statements in it.	don't know
5/12/2011 6:03:22	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	I went into the election page and started reading candidate bios several times. I started the process but could not finish.	Consider breaking up the ballot so small parts can be completed and submitted in small chunks.
5/12/2011 6:03:39	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Although information is sent out about who is running, I don't feel invested enough to read through it and learn who is running - it's what they've chosen to say anyway, so I don't see the information as unbiased or particularly informative. I always vote in governmental elections, but for ALA and similar professional organizations, I don't feel the same responsibility nor do I care much one way or another	I would have to personally know the candidate
5/12/2011 6:05:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, The voting interface was clunky, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do, I'm so busy, it just got away from me too.		Since I didn't know the candidates, and I am really busy anyway, I just wanted to allow better-educated voters to choose the president of ALA instead of making an uneducated vote.
5/12/2011 6:10:26	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 6:13:08	see comments below	ALA is not my "primary" association membership - I am a "foreign" (Canadian) librarian member of ALA. I do vote in elections of my provincial association which I consider to be my "primary" association.	I'm retiring this summer and will not be renewing my ALA membership so obviously won't be voting in the future.
5/12/2011 6:16:28	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 6:18:05	I prefer the old fashioned paper ballot; I can take my time and read it thoroughly -- at my leisure.		I will need to receive a paper ballot in the mail.
5/12/2011 6:26:23	Prefer paper ballots	I often have trouble logging on to ALA's web site. Unless I'm very highly motivated, it's just not worth the bother. Also, over the years I developed a convenient system of marking the list of candidates' bios and transferring my preferences to the printed ballot. It doesn't work for me online.	Option to receive and return paper ballots.
5/12/2011 6:28:28	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, The voting interface was clunky, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I meant to change my login so I could vote, I even started to, but that was not intuitive and I gave up. I meant to go back, but didn't. I have voted in the past and appreciate when candidates statements are just a click away. However, I have no idea for whom to vote on that list of hundreds. I hate it.	I'd have to clean up my log in and that really should not be so hard to do. I may just vote for positions with candidate statements.
5/12/2011 6:30:12	I won't vote online	I considered candidates carefully before voting. I underlined important points in their statements. I tried to balance my vote so that the candidates I selected would represent a variety of types of library service. I can't do that easily online. I don't care to read lengthy documents on a computer screen, I find it awkward to highlight text in this format and I don't care for the expense of printing the text out. Even governmental elections give options for voting. It may serve ALA's bottom line to present elections in this manner, but, obviously it doesn't serve the interests of its members very well.	The option of paper ballot.
5/12/2011 6:30:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 6:30:30	Voting takes too much time.	It is difficult to find time at work to read the bio and statements from all the people running. I voted in the past when there was a paper ballot that I could take home and read in the peace and quiet there.	Have the ballot in a PDF format that you can either vote online or print and take home. Even if I would have to come back to work and mark my ballot online, that would help.
5/12/2011 6:31:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't care who wins	I see membership in ALA as a professional responsibility but after close to 30 years as a member I am beyond caring who is elected to office. The candidates are almost indistinguishable in their platforms, backgrounds, skills and abilities, and I know nothing about them except what they want me to hear. I used to vote for candidates from my professional area, or from my geographic region, but concluded that was silly (not to mention mostly ineffective). I just don't bother now. ALA does fine without my vote.	There is nothing that could make me care about the outcome of ALA elections.
5/12/2011 6:32:59	I want a paper ballot		
5/12/2011 6:35:24	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am new to ALA and I honestly only joined ALA for a career move. I rarely agree with the standards and statements put out by the ALA, especially the ones that promote being "open minded" while being exactly the opposite for any librarians who may view the decision from a different angle. I do not agree with ALA's stance on most issues, however it is far easier to just pay the money to "belong" to ALA than to have my "lack of involvement" keep me from moving ahead in my career. When ALA decides to truly be open minded to all viewpoints, I may change my mind about ALA; however, as it stands now, I believe it is a hypocritical institution held in place by people too blinded by their own beliefs to see what being open minded really is.	
5/12/2011 6:40:42	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, don't really care	The governance structure in ala is too big and not well understood by the membership, thus those that want to serve should just do IT! why spend money on an election.	nothing
5/12/2011 6:44:14	dropped the ball	Okay, I didn't really forget or drop the ball--I just was swamped and didn't do it. Maybe if I felt that the vote made a significant difference in services to libraries I would feel more compelled to vote. I vote in other library associations to which I belong.	I am not sure--which is not just ignoring the answer, I really don't know what would create a sense of need to vote next time.
5/12/2011 6:44:26	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 6:45:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Time is limited, and I don't have the leisure time to sit back and read everything printed about the candidates. I am sure the info provided is excellent -but I just don't have the time to go through it all.	I would need a quick summary of the candidates. Perhaps no more than 4 or 5 summary statements on key issues.
5/12/2011 6:45:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.		
5/12/2011 6:47:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		I would have to feel like the results were relevant to me. ALA is a distant organization, not something I am involved in locally. I think we need to change that.
5/12/2011 6:50:38	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 6:51:11	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		

5/12/2011 6:51:51	I didn't know there was an election.		
5/12/2011 6:51:54	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 6:53:18	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I always plan to research the candidates, but then the election usually sneaks up on me and I don't want to vote by just who has the most interesting name. Oftentimes, I also don't know when the actual voting takes place--it seems like I get lots of emails related to all sorts of elections and I don't have time to pay attention to all of them, and the ones I do read are quickly forgotten because they are not immediate.	Maybe just one email that says VOTE TODAY! ??? I'm not sure--maybe I should put ala.org as my workspace's homepage so I will see announcements.
5/12/2011 6:58:41	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 6:59:48	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 7:00:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I honestly don't see any difference between any of the candidates. They all take a very standard, middle-of-the-road approach to our profession and supply the same answers to the same questions.	Candidates need to make it clear to the ALA membership why the \$200 a year membership is worth our money.
5/12/2011 7:06:39	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	For me, ALA leadership doesn't mean that much. I don't understand how the leaders help and/or aid the plight of the everyday, working librarian. It seems like an unimportant, figurehead position.	Leadership would have to mean something. They would have to do something and not simply just talk.
5/12/2011 7:11:14	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Laziness.	I just don't care - I appreciate what ALA offers conference-wise, and I'm annoyed at what ALA tries to do issues-wise (like issuing statements on any political matter not "directly" related to libraries.) And I tend to assume that all those actually running for ALA office are interested in continuing the status quo. So I continue to take part in conferences & other professional development opportunities, and to ignore elections.	Despite my annoyance with direct email from candidates (which somehow comes both to my work and personal addresses), I think a candidate would need to reach me with the message that s/he would be focusing on professional development, and scrapping any attempts at making a broader statement . . . but that would involve actually reading me, which will be difficult (as I tend to disregard any mention of ALA elections.)
5/12/2011 7:13:32	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 7:14:51	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't vote if I don't have time to review candidate positions and the issues.	
5/12/2011 7:15:09	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I didn't have much time to learn about the candidates, and I didn't want to vote randomly without knowing who I was choosing. I was planning on making the time and voting, but then I realized the time had passed and I missed my chance.	Well, this was my first year as an ALA member, so theoretically I will be more aware of people and what's going on for the next election.
5/12/2011 7:15:12	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I understand in broad strokes what ALA does and appreciate my employer's willingness to pay for me to be a member of ALA, but I don't have a strong enough sense of the actual work being done by ALA's elected officials to be compelled to vote. We, like most, are doing more with less, which means we are crazy busy at work every day. I don't have a strong enough sense of any of these candidates or what they are charged with to choose some over others or to even be compelled to further educate myself so I can cast an informed ballot. I'm sure every candidate is earnest in their intent to do a good job. I'm not sure I'll be any more or less satisfied with any of them.	A. I need to better understand what is at stake to compel me to take the time to vote. B. I need to better understand what makes a good candidate and know how to read through the biographical information provided with the ballot and make a discerned choice. C. I need a stronger sense that my vote really does make a difference.  I regularly vote in local, state and federal elections. I am an informed citizen who does believe my vote for local school board or governor or senator does make a difference. I simply don't feel the same about ALA.
5/12/2011 7:17:05	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 7:17:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It would be great if there was a single page listing the positions we were supposed to vote for, what the positions mean, and then maybe information on each candidate? That's probably a lot of work. Was I just supposed to vote for names I recognized because that feels icky and like a popularity contest from high school.	
5/12/2011 7:18:51	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 7:21:04	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I have no idea what ALA in general does, except hold meetings that most of us can't afford to attend and publishing the 'Library Journal' (the online version is nice). I think the organization in general needs to be leaner, meaner, and more pragmatic (i.e. NOT wasting time on things that have nothing to do with librarianship--like the Iraq war for example). I mean, I hated Bush too but ALA meetings shouldn't have been the place to address these issues, and our membership should know this.	Become less political, more pragmatic. Reduce the number of committees to the bare minimum--we've got many that we don't need. Increase the terms of presidents and such so they can actually accomplish something (1 year isn't long enough). Have staggered terms on committees (and also increase the terms there) so you have roughly 1/3 of the committee being replaced each year. Hell, make those 3 year terms. Simple structural changes, but they'll be hard to enact because of the committee-based organizational structure ALA currently uses.
5/12/2011 7:26:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I feel rather disconnected from ALA and most of the issues. I follow AASL pretty closely and hone in on issues that affect schools and education. There is a vast difference between public libraries and elementary school libraries.  I simply do not have time to read through most of what comes to my email to keep abreast of things, even with RSS. I read reviews and keep track of major educational trends plus stay on top of my faculty and issues that are important to my principal, students, parents.	To know more about the issues and know more about the candidates. How this happens I just don't know. Perhaps having input from my state affiliate Kansas Assoc of School Librarians. Again at the state level I do not have much contact with KLA just the school side of things. Plus I keep very active in Kansas Reading Association, NEA, KNEA.
5/12/2011 7:30:59	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I really do not know anything about the roles of the Council and executive. I did read the profiles of the two Presidential candidates, but wasn't inspired enough to investigate if one is preferable over the other.  I am a Canadian and not tuned into the American library scene, despite reading the professional journals and e-newsletters. So I am unfamiliar with the personnel and with the roles. Figured there was no need to 'take an uninformed guess.'	I'd need to be made aware of why I should care who is President or who are Councillors.
5/12/2011 7:32:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., There has never been any real difference between candidates.	Elections become just a popularity contest. Candidates never differ much on issues or even priorities. No real point to elections like this where the nuances between candidates are never really clear enough for voters to make educated choices.	Make it VERY clear what differences there are between candidates. Otherwise I don't see the point in having an election. The dues I pay to ALA I consider a donation. I do not now and never will consider myself a "member" of something just because I pay money. I believe in the mission, not in the bureaucratic fluff that ALA goes through each year (like these elections). A waste of time.
5/12/2011 7:35:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I have been a member of ALA since I was an MLIS student I have been a librarian for 3 years now and my ALA membership has never really been a benefit to me.		
5/12/2011 7:36:36	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., The voting interface was clunky!		Anything ALA and web makes me cringe - it is always clunky and slow. Like most people I am very busy, and the thought of taking time out of my day to waste time with ALA's clunky system is not appealing.
5/12/2011 7:36:44	Didn't want to	Doesn't matter won't change anything why bother	Not going to happen
5/12/2011 7:38:31	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Each year the candidates have the same agenda that is broad, stale unexciting and ignorant of the real issues libraries and librarians face. Perhaps it's not their fault as the organization is beyond reform.	
5/12/2011 7:45:52	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't feel that ALA truly represents my vision of what libraries are and should do. It spends way too much political capital advancing liberal agendas. About the only one of its major causes I embrace is individual intellectual freedom and the corresponding right to individual privacy.	My job would get less stressful because funding would be assured; we would be dealing with fewer customers on a daily basis; and there would be less "campaign stuff" to weed through before I could feel that I made the "best" choices among the multitude of options.  Bottom line: I'm already on overload - Studying the platforms just took too much time. Rather than pick candidates who might not represent my views, I decided to abstain.

5/12/2011 7:46:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I have been an ALA member since I was a student in library school and could join at a discount. I remain a member now because my employers have always paid for it. I don't really feel connected to ALA. I don't see or feel any real benefit to membership. I have networked, gotten jobs and thrived in the profession on my own, that's sad to me but it's the truth. I think ALA advocates for librarians and hands out awards to books...and there's the magazine but I'm not sure what else; a lot of librarians feel this way. When I was a student librarian I interned as a student librarian with the public library system and the librarian told me that ALA was a joke and to never waste my \$ on membership. A managing librarian told me to join an ALA committee because they are very easy to get on and you can quickly use the organization to make a name for yourself professionally.	I need to feel more connected, more personally invested in the profession. Librarians are struggling all over the place and libraries are closing down and dynamic new professionals are struggling to find work even as old school librarians won't leave to make room so voting in an ALA election seems like a low priority.
5/12/2011 7:49:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I could easily vote for the top offices in ALA, but I got bogged down with making decisions on the ALA Councilors. I take voting seriously and therefore feel the need to read all the info on all who are running and it takes a lot of time. If this info could come out in a pdf that I could download a month or two ahead of voting time instead of having to click through the web it would help me. (A voter's pamphlet so to speak.)	Have the voting in smaller parts that can be submitted separately. I finished voting for the top offices and saved my ballot. But I never got back to it because I could not find the time to read all the info on all who were running. If this info could come out in a pdf that I could download a month or two ahead of voting time instead of having to click through the web it would help me. (A voter's pamphlet so to speak.)
5/12/2011 7:59:52	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I was aware of the voting, but not enough information about who the candidates were, what positions were open, etc to feel knowledgeable enough to vote.	A link from the voting announcement email to candidate bios and a list in the body of the email itself outlining what positions are up for a vote and their duties would help.
5/12/2011 8:00:10	Was out of town during election, no access to ALA site (was out of the US)	I had very spotty Internet access, and frankly, voting in the ALA election wasn't at the top of my list of things to take care of while on vacation. I have voted in previous elections, and figured missing one year wouldn't be an issue. However, I will say that from all appearances, it doesn't seem to matter too much who is elected president of ALA -- ALA keeps on going without too much radical change.	I take a long vacation (more than 5 days) about every 10 years, so I'm sure I'll vote in the next ones.
5/12/2011 8:00:47	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I started to vote for the candidates/ positions I was familiar with. I then started trying to read through the rest of the ballot and unfamiliar candidates and never had time to complete voting.	Maybe next time I'll vote for some positions and not others..I'm really not sure. There were just too many things on the ballot. It was too time consuming.
5/12/2011 8:01:07	I am a fan of paper ballots	I am a fan of paper ballots. I am inundated, inundated, inundated with email messages of all types. The first ALA message about election login is number 765 back from the top in my Outlook email list of unopened messages. I receive about 50 messages a day. My email screen displays less than 50 messages. When I did vote, using paper ballots, I read all the statements by all the candidates at all levels. I had a general concept about what I wanted to see in candidate statements, and I tried to vote for candidates who expressed a similar viewpoint. I also picked candidates based on the type of position and type of library (or other occupation) that they had. I wanted to see a balance of candidates representing the major and the minor streams of the general group of people with the occupational title of "librarian".	A paper ballot and a paper statement from the candidates like the ones that were sent. I DO respond to paper proxy vote ballots sent to me in regard to stocks that I own (about 30 different ones individually.) Most of the ballots are sent out by a company known as Proxy Services, with a city located on Long Island, New York mailing address.
5/12/2011 8:06:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:06:58	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	Trying to choose 30 to vote for out of 100 candidates I don't know is insane. I don't have the time to read all their bios, so it's like guesswork, or the odd chance I've heard someone's name somewhere. That doesn't mean they are any good, or that I agree with their viewpoint.	if I retire I'll have more time . . .
5/12/2011 8:11:10	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't know anything about the people I would be voting for. It would be like pulling names out of a hat.	
5/12/2011 8:14:50	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I don't feel that reading a blurb makes me a very informed voter and opt to not vote because I don't feel knowledgeable enough.	
5/12/2011 8:15:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I suppose I assume that people really involved in ALA who know the candidates are better informed and qualified to vote for the officers. I would just be making wild guesses based on the short paragraph that they submit, their geographic location, and their position. I would hate to vote for someone who is active in ALA and looks good on paper, but is for example, a notoriously difficult person to work with or who is ineffective.	(Actually, I can't even remember if I voted or not. I remember reading the ballot, but I don't remember if I submitted it or not.) I don't feel like I know enough about the candidates to make an informed choice, but I also don't want to read an entire booklet about everyone either.
5/12/2011 8:15:36	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't know there was an election., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	What are the stakes? Who are the candidates? Why have an election when you can just appoint officers? Does anybody offer candidate endorsements I can check on? And what, exactly, does the ALA do to enhance my day-to-day professional life--Why should I care about an ALA election?	Give me clear and simple information about the candidate's positions and qualifications. Offer a time period in which I can ask the candidates a question--maybe have an online candidate's debate. Publicize the election more broadly and tell people why their votes matter.
5/12/2011 8:21:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:25:09	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	ALA is almost completely irrelevant to me as I cannot make ANY of the conventions.	Make ALA more relevant and accessible.
5/12/2011 8:26:06	I forgot.	I had a list of people to vote for, but ran out of time, and then forgot on the last day.	I just need to be a little more organized. I also like it when LSSIRT has candidates.
5/12/2011 8:26:09	Too busy	My email has piled up so much, that by the time I got back to it, voting was over	For my work and community involvement to slow down, so I can get time to do it.
5/12/2011 8:27:28	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:28:15	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	What is the expected role for the candidate (besides their statement of what they will do), the usual "what's in it for me". Knowing more about the candidates would be helpful, as well.	
5/12/2011 8:28:24	Voting takes too much time., The voting interface was clunky., passcode, and, cannot view bios/statements easily/quickly (well, I was so disgusted with last year that I did not even try this year).	With paper ballots, you can peruse the bios/statements at your leisure, and then make informed choices. I kept those bios/statements too. Bring back paper ballots, and I'll vote. The actual voting in paper format is quick. The electronic version is just t-o-o-slow. Also, the last day to vote was Earth Day (too busy at work to even sit down). Why in the world is the voting deadline not the last Friday of the month?? In addition, there was a "passcode". Every time I log on to ALA's site, it seems I'm missing some code/ID to do what I need to do.	Paper ballot is ideal. Even if I know the candidates well, I want to know their statements. In paper, ones that had no statements - I did not vote for them. With electronic, you are constantly clicking to see these. And printing them is not easy. Electronic has too many barriers and is inefficient the way ALA does it. The other option - have ALL of the bios/statements on the ALA website (requiring only the regular ALA ID/password to view), with EASY printing. That way, when we vote, we'd have already had time to read these important items.
5/12/2011 8:29:33	Voting takes too much time., I forgot.	The process of (responsibly) reading through and thinking over the positions of candidates for a large number of offices when I'm otherwise busy didn't appeal. Sorry to admit it, but I don't have strong opinions about the positions of most of the candidates in terms of what they will do for ALA. When I DO read positions, they sound equally good to me generally, so this year I thought I'd be fine with whatever my fellow ALA members chose for representatives.	not sure, but voting in smaller chunks might be helpful
5/12/2011 8:30:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		I'm not sure how much impact the ALA administration has on my life, frankly. My division's officers are much more relevant to my work and professional development needs.
5/12/2011 8:30:08	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:30:20	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Too overloaded to pay attention	It takes time to understand the issues, get to know the candidates, make a decision, logon to the interface (didn't even know my login id)and perform this task. I am doing the work of 3 people and this was not at the top of my priorities.	More info on the issues, candidates, etc. and more time to peruse them.
5/12/2011 8:31:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I don't read my home email regularly, and have a slow internet connection, so I never got around to spending the time to get into the site to vote.	
5/12/2011 8:33:34	The voting interface was clunky.	I found it much easier to do when it was a paper ballot.	
5/12/2011 8:37:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 8:38:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	Though I read each of the candidates' statements, I did not take enough time to get background on each such that I would make an informed vote. As I was considering my choices, I tried to find an e-mail with directions for voting, but was unable to. I probably would have dug deeper if I felt more conviction for one candidate or the other.	Have the voting process more readily available from the ALA web page.
5/12/2011 8:38:39	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	I really don't know what the candidates' agendas are nor how they plan to carry out their agenda.	I really miss having the candidate profiles and statements in an easy to read format that use to be in the printed American Libraries publication. clicking back and forth to open and close each candidates statement is cumbersome.

5/12/2011 8:38:52	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, see below	ALA elections seem like nothing more than a popularity contest, awarding the most "popular" with a title to put on their CV. Despite the organization's hype, ALA officers have no real impact on the practical matters affecting librarians. In short, I simply don't care who is in those positions.	
5/12/2011 8:39:07	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:39:46	The voting interface was clunky., Didn't receive ALCTS Ballot.	I think the ALCTS ballot was not included as part of my online ballot. But I was busy and forgot to let someone at ALA know that happened.	
5/12/2011 8:40:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:41:30	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I didn't really care.	I suppose I would like to know what the positions do and why I should vote in the election.	
5/12/2011 8:42:19	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It does take a lot of time. I have voted in the past, and I know that bios and platforms are explained within the voting, but I just didn't get around to it this year. I had it on my calendar a few times, but I never followed through to actually do it. Then it was too late.	I would need to be committed and set aside some time to do this.
5/12/2011 8:44:51	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm a member of ALA, but do not participate much. I have no idea who the candidates are and know very little about what they would do. Also, I am only a library student and not a librarian and thus I feel under equipped to know what to look for in the candidates.	I would have to be more familiar with the candidates and have a better idea of what roles they are to fill.
5/12/2011 8:53:21	Membership error	Apparently when renewing your membership you have to select CMDS each time. If you don't, it does not automatically transfer. If you don't select that when renewing, you can't vote, as I discovered. LLAMA does not seem to have this transfer problem.	
5/12/2011 8:54:51	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I am a relatively new librarian (just finished my MLS last year) and have a hard time relating to ALA or the candidates.	Information from ALA and the candidates, not just about their platforms, but about why my vote matters and how their work will affect me and my job.
5/12/2011 8:56:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:56:28	Voting takes too much time., I forgot.	I belong to several divisions of ALA and just getting through two of them took forever. I had intended to return to the ballot and finish, but forgot.	Be able to vote for each division separately, rather than in one big submission.
5/12/2011 8:58:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 8:58:57	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	My own fault. Didn't have the time this year to go through and read all the background information provided. With the old paper ballots one could always read to and from work, etc. Harder to accomplish now that everything's on line. Or at least that's the way it SEEMS.	A bit wider time frame. Easier to read background info.
5/12/2011 9:01:57	I am retiring.	Because I am retiring after ALA Annual (October), I did not feel I should have a voice in choosing who would be leading thereafter.	Someone would have to convince me that retirees should have an equal voice with those who are working.
5/12/2011 9:04:11	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It's not voting that takes too much time, it's being familiar enough with the candidates and the intricacies of various issues that takes too much time. We are busy enough as it is, and for the most part, candidates seem to be saying the same thing. I am sure there are nuances, but usually I'm not aware of significant policy differences between the candidates. It seems more of a difference in personalities, and I don't usually know the people. That said, I'm not actually sure I didn't vote in ALA this year, but I know I usually don't.	A major difference in policy positions on an issue that I cared about.
5/12/2011 9:07:06	I didn't know there was an election.	Gee, I guess you sent me an email. Unfortunately, my inbox is so full from list mail and spam (not to mention, work!) that I must have overlooked it.  Usually, I remember getting lots of reminders, but not this time.  It's also possible the spam filter grabbed the email. I have trouble with the one we're required to use at work; it won't let me add any more "approved senders" (cheap app!).	I'm not sure - I hate to say, send a snail mail, because I have the same problem with that, but I think I would open an envelope if it was from ALA.  You probably can't afford to call me... that's what works for charities, though.
5/12/2011 9:07:13	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I don't care about ALA politics.	ALA politics have no impact on the daily particulars of my job.	Higher stakes.
5/12/2011 9:10:42	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:12:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:12:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:14:05	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:15:26	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I felt like I had no idea at all who the candidates were, what they "stood for," what they would do for ALA, and how it would affect me to vote. Frankly, I don't have the time to devote to figuring out who the candidates are. Or, if there's an easy way to do it, I don't know how.	Maybe a condensed website or place where I can go to read about the candidates and the issues they represent.
5/12/2011 9:19:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Candidates are identical	I am not a heavily "involved" ALA member, I've attended a few conferences, keep up with the newsletter, and try to keep up with what's happening in the profession through journals and blogs. When it comes to the candidates for ALA offices, I am usually initially unfamiliar with the individuals. However, once I read their biographies and go through their "choose me" statements, I get the distinct impression that there truly is no difference between Candidate A and Candidate B. The candidates are always well-qualified, usually have similar educational backgrounds, and have been long-standing members of ALA. All good. So when it comes to their positions on the "issues," there is usually very little difference between them, really. They might prioritize the issues differently, say patron privacy, but shifting the priority of issues doesn't make you truly different from the other candidate. So, in my opinion, it doesn't really matter WHO wins because nothing really changes in the focus of ALA: we will always champion intellectual freedom, patron privacy, information literacy, etc., regardless of WHO is the President of ALA. The only things that might change are the cogs in the bureaucracy that serve the ALA, but not any fundamental shifting of policy. I'm not saying this is a terrible thing: it is what it is. ALA is a source of good in this world, filled with people who mostly share a positive view of what the profession does and can do for society. It's like the American Red Cross; I don't care who their President is because their mission does not change. They would never have a leader who changed their mission. And the same is true for ALA: we would never have a leader who changed our mission because the organization would never allow such an individual to rise to those levels. So we get candidates who will always carry the mission forward first and foremost; the policy details only matter to the bean-counters and those whose jobs depend directly on the bureaucracy. The mission of ALA is larger than any individual, and that is a good thing. Because of this, I'm sure Candidate A or Candidate B (or C or D) will do an excellent job as President.	As is true of national elections, I usually vote AGAINST one candidate versus another. As long as candidates for ALA offices are fundamentally indistinguishable, I don't see myself voting in future elections. Put up some scary, ultra-conservative candidate who wants to privatize libraries, hand over patron records to the FBI, and allow concerned citizen groups to ban books, and I will stuff the ballot box against such a candidate.
5/12/2011 9:19:31	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I do vote when I am familiar with the candidates. When I am not familiar with the candidates, I don't have time to read, evaluate, and compare their statements. Even if I did, I'd be hesitant to vote solely based on candidate statements (because anyone can sound good on paper). Typically, this means that I DO vote in every ALA election, but I only vote on SOME of the ballots for which I'm eligible (usually the ballots for the particular ALA sections in which I'm most active).	
5/12/2011 9:19:47	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It is just such a huge, time consuming process. The years I've known someone running for office, I vote. Other years, I don't, because I do not have the time to read everyone's bio and campaign speech. When it's multiple candidates for committees, I have no idea who these people are. Sometimes I just vote based on, "I'll make sure there's a representation from all parts of the U.S., and public and school, and male and female."	
5/12/2011 9:21:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 9:23:47	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't know much about ALA and what it does. I have been a student member for 3 years and only know about the conferences and some legislative activity. I didn't vote because I didn't feel a part of it, didn't think my voice was relevant since I'm totally not involved.	?? I believe ALA is important but I feel so distanced from it that I can't see voting unless people I know something about are running.

5/12/2011 9:25:07	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. The voting interface was clunky., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The candidates did present their qualifications, but it is unclear how their qualifications contribute to their success on the job. Knowing more about what each office requires would help me make an informed decision.  Also, the ALA website is, in general, clunky and hard to use. The website represents the nation's largest group of information professionals; it should be especially embarrassing that it is so unappealing and difficult to navigate.	
5/12/2011 9:27:22	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., See below	Too many choices to make an informed decision. ALA governing structure is too cumbersome - elections every year, council too big. Candidate bios are unlikely to provide enough helpful info. I've voted in the past, but this year I didn't know the candidates. Since elections will come around again in a few months, what's the big deal?	Clear, concise, standardized info (easily accessible for review before voting) on each candidate. I would need a compelling reason to vote - feel strongly about particular candidates.
5/12/2011 9:27:50	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Candidates statements were generic. I felt there was no clear or imperative difference. The process is long and a bit clunky. I don't like making a choice based on my professional library experience and not the candidate's.	I need to have a sense that my vote makes a difference.
5/12/2011 9:32:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:32:12	I forgot.	I usually do vote and this year had put the last reminder e-mail in my ALA folder as I was cleaning out my Inbox. I happened to be going into the folder for something else and saw the reminder - two days after the election.	Nothing really. I do read the candidate bios (some are a bit long) and especially focus on people in my region/groups in which I am a member.
5/12/2011 9:33:00	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	The only information I saw was from the candidates themselves, which isn't very useful. I want to read evaluations and endorsements of candidates written by non-biased librarians that I trust.	
5/12/2011 9:36:35	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Not interested	I'm a member of ALA for the development opportunities (i.e. conferences). Like student council elections, it's unclear how choosing one candidate over another really affects the outcome, i.e. will choosing Jane Doe instead of John really impact the RDA forum I'm planning on attending?	
5/12/2011 9:40:30	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	Though I am an ALA member, I do not really feel connected to it very strongly as an organization. I am an academic librarian and feel that ALA has a public library focus, though I do pay some attention to ACRL. The ALA conference is too big, and I tend to focus on smaller conferences that are directly related to what I do. I didn't see the point in taking the time to vote this year. I was busy. I focus my efforts on my state organization.	I have voted in the past, and may vote again in the future. Depends on the extra time I have, as I just don't feel invested enough in ALA to pick the leadership. Again, I am very involved in my state organization.
5/12/2011 9:41:11	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Length of ballot.	So many candidates!! Too many!	Break up the election into different dates of voting when you have so many candidates. Better way of informing the voters of the qualifications of the candidates.
5/12/2011 9:42:10	Voting takes too much time. I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The ballot came on my work email. Since it takes a long time to vote, I planned to forward it to my home email, but kept forgetting to do it!  This is actually the first year I haven't voted.	Since I'll be retired, I probably won't vote.
5/12/2011 9:42:34	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I don't want to log in, I don't use the website	I don't want to go to the website to log in and vote, I am not an active member. I do enjoy reading ALA publications.	No Log in, Votes via email/Mail.
5/12/2011 9:43:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I am so removed from anything the Association does I don't know who, what, or why I am voting and I certainly don't feel qualified to vote. Right now ALA is just too big and too far away. We don't even have a state chapter.	
5/12/2011 9:44:21	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:47:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 9:49:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I hate this kind of voting. All I know is the bio blip that is posted. I have gone to both school libraries and public library web pages to see if I can get a better feel for the person, usually to no avail. Sometimes I might recognize a name if I have read an article that they wrote. So then I want to think about it, and I get involved with other things and forget.	I am not as active as I would like to be in the library world. I have never been to an ALA convention, served on a committee or posted to a blog. I think that if I were more involved and met more of my colleagues it would make a tremendous difference.
5/12/2011 9:50:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., I also don't understand what the positions are for exactly - each candidate will tell you what they'll do if elected, but what functions do the positions fill, especially outside ALA itself? How do they liaise with the public and politicians?	I feel disconnected from a lot of the workings of ALA. The organization is huge and always doing many different activities, but due to scheduling and finances I am unable to participate in most of them. I feel ignorant of important issues within ALA and advocacy outside it, in spite of regular updates through publications - it's data overload to go through everything posted, sent, mailed, etc. AND to accomplish my daily work AND to complete my work as a LIS student. I also worry that the fees will exceed my ability to continue as a member when I pass the 'new member' time limit.	A break-down or general summary of candidates and positions' meanings would help (please forgive me if this already exists in the ALA publications, but I haven't seen any information on it - I've probably missed it).  Ideas for improving affordability seem timely too.
5/12/2011 10:05:13	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am a new member. I am still learning about the role of ALA and its various committees and divisions. As I gain more understanding of the needs of the profession and the organization, I will develop more of an opinion about candidates and vote.	see above
5/12/2011 10:12:24	Time got away from me	I would look at the ALA e-mails about voting and think "OK, I need to vote, I'll have to do it later when I have time." And it just never happened. I feel badly because I've voted in the past few elections.	To just sit down and do it - make the time for it rather than saying I'll do it whenever I have time.
5/12/2011 10:12:38	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	And I didn't feel that there was any candidate who particularly outshone the others.	
5/12/2011 10:15:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I am a member, but not very active. Don't know any of the candidates, not sure what they would do. Are there really important issues that they disagree on? Not sure leadership change makes change in organization, so not sure it really matters who the president or other officers are.	I would need to believe that it mattered which candidate was elected. I would need to understand the differences between them. What would candidate A do that candidate B would not, etc.
5/12/2011 10:16:27	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am currently a FT library employee AND a graduate student in an MLIS program. (Graduating this weekend!) This barely leaves me time to brush my teeth, much less do research on potential candidates! I don't like to vote in ANY election without being informed about the candidates, so I opted not to participate. I hope that in the next election cycle, I will have more time to devote.	
5/12/2011 10:16:57	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 10:22:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I did not take the time to become familiar with the candidates and in the back of my mind I knew there was a deadline and it slipped by. Most of my attention has been focused on social justice issues in Arizona: ethnic studies at TUSD, SB1070, HB2281, etc.	Have not been that involved in ALA. Cannot find the connection with social justice issues in AZ and libraries. There seems to be a vacuum of how these laws may erode having access to information as a human right.
5/12/2011 10:24:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 10:24:46	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 10:25:56	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Honestly, I don't really care about the election. I have not seen how anyone in ALA really benefits my library, other than having the annual conference.	Make it worth my while.
5/12/2011 10:33:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., too much other stuff going on to research candidates		Would have to have some spare time to sit and study candidates and then choose.
5/12/2011 10:50:00	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Lack of knowledge of the ALA infrastructure, and candidates, left me with no opinion, thus no vote.	A formal, set document, sent to all members, with all candidates listed, and delineated. Also, a listing of opinions on each candidate, by anyone who wishes to go on record.
5/12/2011 10:53:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Got lazy this year, but this is the first time I have not voted.	Reading about so many candidates at one time is cumbersome.	
5/12/2011 11:06:59	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 11:07:46	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Well, it's not the voting that takes too much time; it's the getting to know the candidates.	To be convinced it is worth my time.

5/12/2011 11:18:18	Did not care, Did not feel like I was involved in ALA enough to vote	Did not care: I trusted that the candidates all had the best interests of ALA at heart. Did not feel like I was involved in ALA enough to vote: Having never attended a conference, I feel like I do not contribute or am not tied to the results in the same way that someone more involved is. I definitely KNEW about it-- too many emails came my way from the various candidates.	Me becoming more involved.
5/12/2011 11:29:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Not sure what the impact would be to me personally or professionally if I voted Candidate A vs. Candidate B.	I feel that my ALA Officers are so far removed from our Texas library system, that what they do, recommend, vote on, etc. really doesn't have that much of an impact on us.	There needs to be a sense of ownership going both ways to compel me to take more of an interest.
5/12/2011 11:32:36	I started my ballot but was so swamped at work that I did not get back to it in time. I feel awful about not voting.	ALA voting does take time and I am rarely familiar with candidates even though I read a lot of professional library literature. I try to take the time to actually read the bios but this time it lead to a half finished ballot. Epic fail on my part. Maybe the time can be extended?	Well I need to do a better job of putting it on my calendar and then completing it in the first go because otherwise things just get busy and I forget about it. Maybe a free downloadable app for voting?
5/12/2011 11:36:58	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I haven't really seen much change in ALA, at least how it's run based on who is in charge, and it's hard to decide if my vote would sway anything. I also just forgot--I checked my email in the morning, but didn't get back to it until later.	I like hearing from the candidates--but not in separate emails. I'm not willing to read 2 pages of text in an email from each candidate. I would like something short, sweet, to the point, and either in ALA Direct, or in American Libraries. That would definitely help.
5/12/2011 11:37:19	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 11:44:45	Voting takes too much time., Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting., this is the busiest time of year for academic librarians!	start it earlier in March and end it at the end of April--even another week earlier would help avoid mid-terms or later would avoid end-of-semester papers due, as well as meeting time conflicts, conferences, etc.	maybe if it took less time; every time I started looking for the email with the election code, etc., I got interrupted; when I finally had the time, it had ended
5/12/2011 11:54:05	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	There were way too many candidates and positions to fill. I started voting, had to go do actual work, and then forgot about it until the date had passed. I didn't feel I had time to read all of the bios and choose so many, and couldn't be an informed voter.	Lessen the number of candidates or positions filled at one time, perhaps stagger elections so that only a handful of positions are filled at once, and it's broken down into bite-size pieces.
5/12/2011 12:02:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 12:03:14	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 12:04:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		I'm not sure. I like to be an informed voter, and I'm just not sure if I can be for an election like this. Perhaps we could have candidates propose a single initiative (or set of initiatives) for their tenure and that would better help us decide what it's important.
5/12/2011 12:12:49	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.		
5/12/2011 12:17:44	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		have more info about who the candidates are and what they would do.
5/12/2011 12:22:31	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 12:39:46	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Unlike government elections where they parade their stand on issues and what they plan to do, I don't know anything about anybody on the ballots. So what is to stop me from voting for somebody that's already in the position? If it ain't broke, don't fix it. On the other hand, maybe the person in it now did such a horrible job... how would I know? I honestly don't feel that I know anything about anybody to judge who to best represent my needs. As far as I'm concerned, as long as the governing body has ALA's best interest, I'll go with whomever is in charge.	Awareness. For the candidates, I need to be aware of who are the candidates, what they stand for, and what their positions entail. For me, I need to find a way to be more informed. Perhaps a brief update or bio on each candidate via AL Direct prior to the election.
5/12/2011 12:40:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Near retirement and really don't care	I maintain my membership in ALA but am no longer active. I plan to retire in two years and am starting early withdrawal	I can't imagine anything. I regard it as the duty of younger members. I see it as a positive good to let other decide these things
5/12/2011 12:48:10	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Retired (2000)	While still interested in ALA and libraries, I am unfamiliar with the candidates and the issues. Thus, I don't think it appropriate that I vote.	I'll not vote again, probably.
5/12/2011 12:55:41	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I feel too new to ALA to really understand the process, the offices, and the candidates. It seemed like familiarizing myself with everything would take too much time.	I might have voted if there were a voter's guide for people new to ALA. As a student in a MLS program I didn't feel like my vote would be as informed as someone who has been in the profession a while.
5/12/2011 12:56:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 12:58:01	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The ballot is way too long and clunky and it's just a waste of time, since the organization is way too big and needs to update itself to the latest century.	Nothing. I don't know any of the candidates and I don't care to. ALA is an outdated organization and most of the people running are simply running so they can boost their own resumes and vitas. I've never known a candidate who did anything besides Trevor Dawes. I'm not planning on renewing my membership.
5/12/2011 12:58:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As an academic librarian, I typically feel disenfranchised from ALA - that it's more for public librarians.	I would need to feel a greater connection to the candidates - and the organization in general. What impact does the ALA (and officers) have on academic librarianship?
5/12/2011 12:59:10	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 13:03:00	It's far more comfortable to sit at my table or on the sofa to study & do the voting than on email.		Not to need "an act of Congress" to get a paper ballot
5/12/2011 13:05:15	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.		
5/12/2011 13:07:06	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		It would be great if there was a way to easily get CVs/resumes of candidates. Reading their self-description and current job title doesn't really tell me whether they have any idea what is going on in a library like mine or in my field.
5/12/2011 13:08:36	Voting takes too much time., Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from voting., I intended to vote, but ran out of time.	I had voted in previous elections, but this year I simply ran out of time. I've been spending every extra moment fighting cuts to my school district's licensed librarian positions next year and couldn't make voting a priority. Also, I had to call ALA directly because I couldn't find the link to use to vote when I searched the ALA website. I also couldn't find the information in the various emails I received, primarily from AASL, to encourage me to vote.	Clear voting instructions on the ALA website would be very helpful
5/12/2011 13:19:59	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., It makes no difference; one candidate is as good (bad) as another		I would like to vote for someone other than Tweedledum and Tweedledee; however, since that still happens in the national elections, I can't imagine ALA will be any different anytime soon...
5/12/2011 13:20:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 13:21:26	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I have been very busy, and I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I felt like I didn't have the time to research and make an informed decision.	
5/12/2011 13:23:01	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	It just seems completely irrelevant to me. Librarians as politicians - I can't get interested.	I can't think of anything.
5/12/2011 13:27:41	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., general disagreement with ALA politics		For ALA to become apolitical and stop supporting national political candidates.
5/12/2011 13:30:17	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	The ALA seems like a large administrative organization in many ways far removed from the front lines. Those who can get supervisory approval to attend meetings and conferences and who can afford to travel (both in terms of money and time from work) would likely know one another. I would venture to say that many ALA members, myself included, are not in such a position. I could have just clicked on some names that sounded interesting or familiar but that seemed irresponsible.	
5/12/2011 13:31:13	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am new to the ALA, being a student member just finishing my first year. I did not vote because I did not have the time to properly research the candidates, and I do not cast votes just for the sake of voting.	The more I am exposed to the ALA and the library profession in general, the easier it will be to make an informed opinion regarding the elections. If, by the next elections, I feel that I have a better idea of the type of leadership needed and can identify the person whom I think is the best candidate, then I will vote.

5/12/2011 13:33:17	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.		
5/12/2011 13:47:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 13:54:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do. I work two jobs and simply did not have enough time to do the research I felt necessary before voting.	As I said, it was mainly an issue of lack of personal time to devote to studying the candidates.	While I appreciate the emails sent from people up for election, it seems to be only for the presidential candidates. I'd like it to be clearer where I need to go to learn about the people who are running.
5/12/2011 13:55:59	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I didn't have a preference for the candidates that I did know.	I was unfamiliar with many of the candidates for various offices, and in those cases where I did know them, I didn't have a strong view of who would do the better job. I was also distracted with personal family issues during most of the voting time.	
5/12/2011 14:08:15	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm a new ALA member. I don't have much familiarity yet with the organization, the elected positions, or the persons running. I hope to become more familiar after attending this summer's conference.	A voter's guide would help with a synopsis of the position and the candidates. But perhaps there was one and I missed it?
5/12/2011 14:11:07	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 14:15:27	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As a 2010 MLIS graduate, I am still looking for a job and have become discouraged about my career path and the profession as a whole. ALA as an organization has not seemed very supportive, and researching the issues and candidates was more effort than I was willing to do when it takes all my spare energy to write my job applications.	
5/12/2011 14:22:05	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I know each candidate sent out a bio however I don't relate to any of them. I understand that they are highly qualified individuals but what do they really do that relates to a library staff employee. I am very burned out on politics that does nothing to help the average library person.	I have to find more of a connection to the candidate and the job they are going to do. I just don't feel they represent me so why should I participate. By the way, I have voted in past elections and this is the conclusion I have drawn.
5/12/2011 14:26:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 14:27:43	I forgot.	I was too busy with work, and before I knew it, the deadline had passed!	I do read the weekly American Libraries Direct newsletter - it would be great to have reminders in there as well, in addition to the regular e-mail reminders to vote.
5/12/2011 14:33:38	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 14:37:19	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I don't like to vote when I'm not sure of the candidates. I think it's better to let those with more information make the decision.	
5/12/2011 14:45:38	I didn't have an opinion either way on who should be elected.	I feel anyone willing to run for the positions listed has already decided to commit themselves fully to undertaking the responsibilities necessary to their elected position. Any differences between the candidates would be like deciding what flavors of dessert you wanted after you've already committed to eating dessert: they are all equally yummy.	
5/12/2011 14:48:36	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 14:50:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I realize it's my responsibility to educate myself, but it would be helpful to have more information about what, exactly, the elected folks are responsible for. (And why I should care). I always get a nice email from each candidate telling me why they are the best choice, but without a fuller understanding of what their roles will be, I feel ill-equipped to make a decision.	
5/12/2011 14:51:21	felt it was irrelevant, getting too cynical.	I've voted for many years; I've read through all the bios and statements and carefully selected candidates. I've voted for the full number of council members, and voted for a few. Doesn't matter. Fringe interest groups still control the voting, and then use ALA as their bully pulpit, even though they are a small percentage. They insist they represent all of us, when clearly, they only represent a fraction of 20%. They stay on the board for years, or get off for one year or so, and then back on, sometimes in a different slot, but it's still the same person. The really new folks are marginalized, and quit after their term. The presidents have great ideas, but with only one year as president, they don't have long term impact.	How about real term limits? If you've served six years on the board, you aren't eligible to serve again, except as President. Period. Doesn't matter if it is consecutive years, or in five different slots.  And how about dealing ONLY with actual library issues, not political and social consciousness ones? How about representing librarians of ALL political parties, and ALL religious beliefs (or lack thereof)?
5/12/2011 14:56:44	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 14:59:29	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot.	I forgot that there was an election, and then didn't feel like I had enough time to really research the candidates and their issues.	
5/12/2011 15:01:36	I did not want to even "try" the "voting interface". Thanks	I personally heard the candidates speak, but I felt like the agendas are too far away from my interest in ALA. I took a chance that everything would turn out ok, if I did not vote.	If someone I knew was running for office.
5/12/2011 15:19:06	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, Becoming familiar with the candidates takes too much time	I'm just so busy, it's really hard to find the time to become more informed about the candidates.	Make candidate information REALLY easy to access all in one place (e.g. some kind of shared platforms in which the different sections participate).
5/12/2011 15:34:42	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do, Have more important things to do.		
5/12/2011 15:39:41	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, The voting interface was clunky.	Everyone sounded good. How to choose?	Fewer candidates to choose from with some really standing out.
5/12/2011 15:40:49	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Difficult to find the time to study candidates enough to vote intelligently.	My fault. Just need to be more organized. Reminders are good. Will try harder next time.
5/12/2011 15:42:37	See below.	I have my doubts about the overall usefulness of ALA. I think most of what ALA does is a waste of effort. I don't care about ALA's elections because I don't care about ALA.	ALA would need to make the case to me, and to other young librarians, that it matters.
5/12/2011 16:34:57	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	There are some days where I do have time to read through my emails and days where I do not have time to look at email.	Quick blurb on the candidates and I need to find time.
5/12/2011 16:35:38	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I did not want to be an uninformed voter, but I couldn't commit the time to looking into the candidates. So I did not vote.	I will have to have the time to make an informed choice.
5/12/2011 17:03:00	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I have no idea of a candidate's background, thinking, goals, etc. Past professional positions (committees) would be helpful. Candidate statements should include their top issues they would like to change or affect.	
5/12/2011 17:26:09	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	It takes time to make informed choices and unfortunately, I did not have the time to familiarize myself with the candidates.	
5/12/2011 17:34:50	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I'd trust the voting opinions of more informed ALA members.	I'd have to be actively involved somehow and aware of any large issues we currently face and the candidates' platforms.
5/12/2011 17:52:14	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 18:02:17	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I did not recognize the candidates from this past election and also did not understand how they varied in opinion on important issues. Basically, I just didn't care enough to vote this time.	I would need to favour one candidate more strongly. I would prefer to not vote at all if I do not have a clear preference between candidates.
5/12/2011 18:03:32	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 18:10:51	Never found the online place to vote, no one sent a paper ballot.	Renewed membership after a long rest. Did know which candidate I would have voted for, however she didn't win. Wish the link for voting had been apparent to me.	Hyper link me to a ballot.
5/12/2011 18:13:34	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/12/2011 19:41:30	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am a retired life member who is no longer active in ALA. I keep up on some of the news, and read parts of the online weekly newsletters; but ALA is not a focus in the way it was prior to my retirement. I will continue to support various units of ALA through paying for membership (& publications) but voting on the scale that ALA elections ask is something I no longer feel compelled to do.	A greater sense of involvement in ALA--which isn't likely to happen at this point in my life.
5/12/2011 20:02:41	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I feel uncomfortable voting when I have no info about the candidates.	Good bios of the candidates, with info on their opinions on important issues, well distributed.

5/12/2011 20:19:10	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I forgot, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		Updates regarding candidates, and descriptions of their responsibilities.
5/12/2011 20:42:36	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/12/2011 21:20:14	I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm not sure why it matters whether one person is elected over another. I don't see any real difference. Sometimes the elected positions just seem honorary/good for CVs of the elected officials.	I would need to better understand why it matters.
5/13/2011 5:42:29	The voting interface was clunky, irrelevance of the election	The candidates are all essentially identical: earnest, anti-intellectual, prone to vapid statements about diversity, the children, the nature of information, other subjects about which they know very little. This is accompanied by equally vapid expressions of good intentions that the ALA is ill-equipped to effect, or even affect.	I used to search diligently for candidates who made modest statements of achievable, or at least realistic, goals. I looked, too, for people who had some notion of how the ALA would help me, an academic librarian, get to career goals and even (gasp!) improve material conditions of work. If there were enough such candidates to fill out a ballot, I would vote. As it is, I scarcely understand why I belong to ALA, much less participate in it. Some of the constituent organizations are more useful to me, but there of course there are frequently no choices, or choices that mean very little in terms of policy/program/philosophy/action.
5/13/2011 6:26:52	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/13/2011 7:17:23	General indifference	All candidates seemed qualified to lead the various organizations, so I didn't see a reason to vote for one person/against another	There would need to be a greater difference between the candidates
5/13/2011 7:26:52	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I didn't see any campaigning by any of the candidates. I figure that in order to vote, you need to be informed on the candidates and the issues, and I think that ALA takes money to be involved - I will never attend an ALA conference because I could never afford it. Figure voting is for the people who can afford to be really involved. I can just barely get my work to cover my membership.	I would need to know who was campaigning and what the point of the elections were. I assume that people who go to the conferences might have more of a stake in who does what. All I get out of ALA is the newsletter and free clip art, so what does it matter what I think?
5/13/2011 7:41:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I didn't know there was an election, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/13/2011 7:45:04	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, As a Librarian from Canada, I don't feel my vote matters much		A feeling that the successful candidates would concern themselves with issues of international importance
5/13/2011 8:33:15	Too much going on in my life; just not important to me at the time		I have voted in previous elections. Most likely, I will again.
5/13/2011 8:39:45	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I don't have the time to read the myriad of emails that come to my inbox each year, so I did not have a chance to read up on the candidates. I also do not feel the change in ALA president makes a big difference to me, so it doesn't matter much to me who wins.	I would like to see an overview of what major accomplishments each leader has done in the past and why it matters to elect a new person over another. For me, each candidate seem interchangeable.
5/13/2011 9:30:44	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, can't find my login info		I would need to be familiar with the candidates
5/13/2011 9:34:32	I was just a particularly harried time at both work and home and voting didn't rise to the top of the priority list against all the other things I had to deal with.	This is the first time in years that I have not voted. It was just a really crazy time in my home and work lives.	I assume that I will vote next year as I have in all past elections except this one.
5/13/2011 10:17:46	lost email with links and numbers	lost the email with links and numbers and couldn't get the I forgot prompts to respond in time...	Send a weekly or biweekly email before voting with candidate info and during the election with voting links and id / password info.
5/13/2011 10:22:25	not interested in voting	I am more engaged with my state organization. It is difficult to be interested in ALA because it so large and feels so distant.	I doubt I will vote in the next election.
5/13/2011 11:11:23	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, The voting interface was clunky, I forgot.		
5/13/2011 11:26:20	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I didn't know there was an election, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do, I just joined ALA and didn't feel qualified to vote as I don't yet understand the issues and people at stake.		Increased familiarity with the issues and people that I am voting for - I suspect this will be aided by going to ALA Annual in June, and by being a member for longer.
5/13/2011 11:52:08	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
5/13/2011 12:01:35	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Since I'm a retired librarian, working part time, I don't know much about the candidates or issues, which is mostly because I'm busy with other issues in my life, such as cleaning and repairing my house and enjoying my new granddaughter.	A major tidying up of my house and life debris, so as to have more time for other activities.
5/13/2011 12:21:50	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I vote in EVERY governmental election. ALA voting does not impact my life one way or the other. For instance, I looked at the Actions of the ALA Board at Midwinter 2011. Nothing they voted on is relevant to me at all.	Issues that affect my library and my position and, consequently, would be voted on by the ALA board would encourage me to vote.
5/13/2011 12:29:51	Renewed my subscription recently and could not log in.	Could not log in and didn't see any easy way to get help and didn't follow up.	Let me log in.
5/13/2011 12:47:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Trying to keep up with day-to-day work concerns, committee work, and other obligations leaves me little time to research the candidates and their platforms. It's difficult to justify extra time when I'm not that engaged in the sphere where elections take place.	If the election was meaningful for me, but I don't know how that could be accomplished. Honestly, I haven't seen that much difference from year-to-year, no matter who is elected.
5/13/2011 13:00:28	Overwhelmed at home and work	Still grieving my husband's death and I find it hard to do much beyond getting to work (no time to vote at work), practicing what I am learning in an weekly evening stress reduction class, and seeing that the lawn is mowed.	I expect my life to be more together by next year's election. This is the first election I've missed since joining ALA in the 1970s.
5/13/2011 13:30:23	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/13/2011 13:51:39	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I have been retired since 2003 and have grown unfamiliar with the candidates	I'd probably need to become active in ALA and a working librarian again.
5/13/2011 14:12:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I do not know who to vote for because I do not know the difference from one name to the next.	I need information about each and every candidate.
5/13/2011 14:34:19	I forgot.	When I receive correspondence from organizations like ALA I tend to decide to "go back to them later," but never do. Also, I never have my member info handy, otherwise I would do it immediately and just get it over with.	Probably not to have to remember any log in info
5/13/2011 14:36:53	I'd vote on paper with paper info on candidates.	I used to vote when I got a booklet with info and a ballot on paper. I am not working now but won't vote online.	
5/13/2011 14:39:18	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, ended during our Easter break	I was feeling a bit overwhelmed with teaching and planning at the time. I marked the email and intended to vote before the break but forgot and it was too late to do so when we returned to school.	I have voted in the past and will try to in the future.
5/13/2011 14:58:42	too much online reading	The extensive online reading required to review the bios triggers chronic migraines. I retired partly due to this physical problem. When bios were in print I could stagger the reading and voted religiously.	I need bios in print. I don't mind voting online.
5/13/2011 15:12:55	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	Reading someone's candidacy statement doesn't make me want to vote for them.	Someone I know and believe would need to run.
5/13/2011 17:02:07	not officially notified	I was recalling that last year I had been sent an official invite and link to vote, and that never arrived this year. I didn't have time to go hunt for it on the ALA site.	See above.
5/13/2011 17:21:02	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I am a first year member and I didn't really understand how to evaluate the candidates or even who they were exactly. I received several emails from some groups but they just confused me more!	Maybe this existed but a guide to the candidates and the positions would be helpful. If this did already exist, then I guess I needed an obvious "CLICK HERE" for it!
5/13/2011 17:57:59	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	To read and make informed decisions about who to vote for and why would have taken more time than I have whether at work or at home. My other priorities take precedence. There is little encouragement or interaction at work to discuss candidates, their importance as elected ALA officers to do what for us that has meaning and impact for us at a local level.	
5/14/2011 5:43:03	Voting takes too much time, I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Bios and statements of candidates I had read in the past did not seem all that different. Not knowing the candidates, it's difficult to determine what the actual difference might be.	If there were updates on candidates beginning much earlier in the process, in smaller chunks and not all at once, where you could track their activities and what they were up to, that would give you a reasonable chance to get to know candidates without having to take a lot of time at once to try to catch up. Knowing what people are doing, what things they have written, etc. in a way that was not information overload, would help me decide who to vote for.
5/14/2011 6:11:43	I was unfamiliar with the candidates, I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I have yet to participate, or see any reason to participate, in any ALA activities.	

5/14/2011 7:24:22	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I just became a student member about two months before the election and the little blurbs sent out requesting my vote did not differentiate the candidates. I couldn't tell what difference it would make to vote one way or the other. I usually vote in EVERY political election, and I hope to know more next year so that I can vote. I felt guilty for not voting, but did not want to make an uninformed decision.	Is there a web site with each nominee's positions clearly described? I need more details than the typical general statements (e.g., "I will advocate for the library profession"). How will each candidate approach the issues differently?
5/14/2011 7:41:15	I don't really care.		
5/14/2011 7:58:44	apathy	after years of faithfully voting for candidates who claim they will make a difference in the bizarreness of ALA, nothing ever changes. I just got tired of wasting the time I took to learn about the candidates and vote.	don't know
5/14/2011 8:30:01	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., The voting interface was clunky.	As a (now retired) librarian I feel it my professional responsibility to support ALA but I am not active and the election slate is full of unfamiliar names. The bios are too long. I understand that people want to present a full picture but perhaps a short standardized intro highlighting education, current position could preface the individualized bios.	see above
5/14/2011 9:25:26	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do., Busy with my last semester in library school	I am a newer ALA member - just graduated with my MLS this month - and haven't been very directly involved in the ALA.	I think it would help if the structure of the ALA as an organization and the role of various positions was presented in a clearer way, especially to new members. This is the first professional organization of which I've been a member, and while I think I have a pretty good handle on the ALA's general role and what it accomplishes, structurally it is pretty complex organization. Members could be assisted in understanding who does what by something as simple as a friendly infographic sent along with our annual membership cards.  Also, how about enlisting the state associations to advertise on behalf of the ALA? My impression is that many members are more involved at the state level.  That said, I would like to become more involved, and the scary statistics have already provided a strong incentive to vote next year. :)
5/14/2011 12:52:24	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
5/14/2011 14:04:57	None of the candidates said anything relevant to the work I do or the issues I face.	Platitudes upon the part of the candidates with the same old story. This is an organization entrenched with library administrators who don't dare confront the true frightening issues that face us for fear of ruffling the feathers of those whom they receive their paychecks.	More directly address the threats to the profession. Transform the organization that champions librarianship into one that also champions librarians. Around the country, librarians rely increasingly on labor unions to protect themselves and can rely on ALA only to ask them for annual dues money. Labor unions are limited in their ability to understand and support the unique needs of librarians, but right now they're all we've got, and as Wisconsin shows, we soon won't have them either.  Next time candidates run for office, solicit in advance some hard questions from the dues-paying peasants out there and publish each candidate's answer, or even teleconference a live debate. That anyone is actually interested in hearing why people don't vote is a good start; however, to judge by the phrasing of the survey responses, I doubt you want to know the real truth, and doubt you ever will.
5/14/2011 15:20:00	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	As far as I can tell ALA is an entrenched institution (not always a terrible thing) that will amble along in the exact same direction regardless of who is at the helm. And I just don't care enough about increasing other people's resume profiles to bother. What are the issues? In bullet points please. I just don't have time to read the long letters and statements the candidates release.	Bullet points of the key issues with links to the extra information. (I know we librarians love to give people more information than they're looking for, but let's face it, we just don't have the time.) What is at stake? Anything??
5/14/2011 20:25:08	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., New to the profession - still in library school	Since I am so new to librarianship and still in school I feel I am not as qualified as seasoned professionals to judge who will best represent me in regard to critical professional issues. I've got a lot going on just working and going to school in addition to parenting two teenagers and actively volunteering in my kids' schools. I realize it sounds like a bit of a cop out, but I don't have time to educate myself about the candidates and issues right now. When I'm working in the profession I will become more engaged in ALA governance.	Have more time to devote to this aspect of professional engagement. Right now my focus is on completing my MLIS and finding a librarian position.
5/15/2011 8:13:52	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I forgot.	I saw the emails about voting, and had the proverbial 'best intentions' to do so, but day to day business activities kept pushing it to the back burner. Then, one day, time was up and here I am taking part in a survey as to why I did not vote. I feel bad about this. I wish I had taken the time to read up more on the candidates. I did watch some candidates videos, though, so that might be an indication of how to get more people aware of who is running.	Filling out this survey.
05/15/11 08:08 PM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	From my perspective, I don't see much difference between the candidates, and don't feel that single-year terms really allow leaders to do anything truly significant. It strikes me as more a means to improve someone's CV than provide true leadership.	Make terms last at least two years. Minimum. Otherwise, I don't have any intention of voting.
05/15/11 08:17 PM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., online voting obstacle	e-mail overload !!!!!  not interested in perusing online candidate info	would prefer a paper option - just include it in the paper american libraries edition  i am not interested in voting online
05/16/11 05:44 AM	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., see below	I belong to two divisions and several sections within those divisions, which means a lot of ballots and a lot of races. Most of the time I don't know much about the candidates and reading through their list of accomplishments is tedious. Unlike political elections, I feel most candidates are generally on the same page with me and there aren't controversial issues or enough clear differences between the candidates to compel me to vote.	A controversial issue where candidates take opposing positions; clear differences between the opinions and approaches of candidates.
05/16/11 06:20 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	Although I had some information on the candidates from some e-mail campaigns, I didn't know the differences between them. I did not want to vote for someone arbitrarily based on an e-mail blast to a listserv. This is my first year as a member, and I don't know that I have enough knowledge of the candidate positions to make an informed decision. I understand some of what the elected officials do (I waffled on clicking that response), but I don't know what different positions on topics would mean to those activities.	I would need a very clear description of what made each candidate different and the impact that would have on the ALA. I wanted to vote, believe it or not, but the little information I had just didn't seem like enough to make that kind of decision.
05/16/11 09:23 AM	Voting takes too much time., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I had over 15 different ballots to fill out, some with almost 50 candidates to choose from. Quite honestly, that's ridiculous.	The process needs to be streamlined but that would require major changes within ALA that I can see happening within my lifetime.
05/16/11 11:00 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.	I'm the manager of an over 100 year old New York State small town library chartered to serve fewer than 4,000 people. I do have a master's degree, but it involves quantitative genetics of the dairy cow.  My experience with professional "MLS" librarians is that they are the most knowledgeable, friendly, helpful individuals on the planet, met one to one. However you often seem to be a bunch of hierarchical ankle biters among yourselves.  Many issues important to my community and its library aren't even identified as issues by ALA. I'm just a participant observer on the national level.	more discussion about serving library patrons, including the old fashioned ones that want books to read.  Recognition that one person libraries still exist all over rural North America. Not all the MLS outreach programs in the world could replace the willing sacrifice of these people (mostly women), who subsist at little over minimum wage and only a few hours a week to provide library services to static, aging communities who cannot afford to move and cannot afford to pay for many services where they are.  By all means push for growth and appropriate pay, but not on the reputations or at the expense of the efforts of a whole lot of non-MLS librarians who came before you and still keep working right beside you.  Acknowledge little libraries and the things that we do right for our communities.
05/16/11 11:17 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates., I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do.		
05/16/11 11:19 AM	I didn't know there was an election.	I don't remember any email asking me to vote. I know there is an election every year, of course, but I don't remember an email about it, or any followup emails either.  I don't know what is considered "lackluster" turnout anyway. I think anything around 20% should be considered a success. Plenty of people don't care who is elected and are fine with what those in the know or who care choose for our leadership.	
05/16/11 11:20 AM	Voting takes too much time., I was unfamiliar with the candidates., Too busy.	Despite being unfamiliar with many of the candidates, I do usually vote. I was just extraordinarily busy this year and didn't make time to do it.	

05/16/11 11:23 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates. I don't understand what, if elected, the candidates would do. Don't care- nobody affects my work directly.	I was unfamiliar with the candidates because I don't really pay attention to any of the ALA elected officials. I feel that most of the ALA elected positions I am aware of don't reflect my work and interests directly. I feel ALA in general supports the right ideas and programs, and so I feel no need to choose any particular person within ALA.	Give me positions I care about.
05/16/11 11:25 AM	the voting window was too short	I saw the e-mail about the vote opening, and didn't have time that week--I didn't know how long it would take, and wasn't familiar with the interface, so it was put aside. I was shocked when I tried to vote the next Monday and it was already closed! Three days? Seriously?	Maybe make the voting period about 7 days, and make the dates clear in the subject line of the e-mail so that it gets on a to-do list, as well as links in the e-mail to information about the candidates. Bulk e-mail from associations is not at the top of anyone's priority list, and if you have to hunt about to find pieces of information, it's just not important enough to do.
05/16/11 11:41 AM	I simply don't care		
05/16/11 11:46 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	I know that I should have done some research on the candidates--I did read their respective statements, but felt they were very similar. I felt that it didn't really matter which candidate got elected. My vote would have been very arbitrary	Perhaps if there were more--or any--communication from the president and candidates-at-large, I'd feel that there was more of a reason to vote. I see statements in the ALA magazine, but really nothing else. What do members at large do? I feel that the president is mostly a ceremonial figure.
05/16/11 11:47 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
05/16/11 11:56 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.		
05/16/11 11:59 AM	I was unfamiliar with the candidates.	ALA is such a large organization and I guess I just feel very removed from the election process. I may have also been overwhelmed with my own responsibilities to pay enough attention. Though I did make time to vote for the SCTPG (Southern Cal. Technical Processing Group) election that just passed, but that feels more relevant to me on a day to day basis and literally took 5 seconds.	