



**LIBBY POST**  
**President, Communication Services**  
**Managing Partner, Progressive Elections, LLC**

Libby Post brings a wide range of communications experience, advocacy and political campaign expertise as well as organizational development/building experience to her clients. Her interest in assisting libraries and advocacy organizations with her marketing, development and public relations expertise led her to starting Communication Services in 1984.

A political consultant by training, she has managed the messaging and/or campaign for a number of successful candidates including John McDonald for Assembly (2012), Susan Kushner for Albany County Family Court (2013), Lisa Fisher for State Supreme Court (2014), Daniel P. McCoy for Albany County Executive (2015), Michael Mackey for State Supreme Court (2016) Holly Trexler for Albany City Court Judge (2017) and Bryan Clenehan for Guilderland Town Justice (2018). Amy Joyce for Albany Family Court Judge (2019), Michael C. Lynch for State Supreme Court (2019), Andra Ackerman for Albany County Court Judge (2019), Bill Kelly for Albany City Court Judge (2019), and John McDonald for Assembly (2020). She has developed message content and voter contact materials for countless other candidates.

In 2018, she created a new political consulting firm, Progressive Elections, with her colleague, Sheila Healy. Together, they were successful in the following 2019 primary contests—Amy Joyce for Albany County Family Court, Andra Ackerman for Albany County Court, Bill Kelly for Albany City Court, Patricia Morrison for Saratoga City Finance Commissioner, Joanne Cunningham for Albany County Legislature and Brian Marsh for Menands Village Trustee. All of these candidates were successful in their November election as was State Supreme Court Justice Michael Lynch. Post also provided a winning primary campaign for State Assemblyman John McDonald.

Post is one of the co-founders of CapitalWomen, the capital district's women's political action committee where she runs the PAC which has pumped over \$70,000 into state and local elections since its founding in 2017.

She also uses her political communication skills to help libraries throughout New York State wage successful building referendum, redistricting campaigns, budget votes and funding initiative. She has a win rate of over 84%.

Hired in 2005 by the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS), Post developed a 4-part Library Campaign Training Institute which enabled 28 out of 30 MHLS member libraries to wage successful

campaigns. She has just been asked to serve on the Advocacy Committee of the American Library Association. She is currently working with the Connecticut Library Association on developing the organization's advocacy strategy.

Among Post's victories in the library field are:

- Saving the Mount Vernon Public Library by passing a \$4.3M budget in May of 2014. Without this victory, the Library might well have closed.
- Passing a \$6.9 million building referendum in May 2008 for the Saugerties Public Library
- Creating library districts for the Johnstown Public Library, Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls, Long Lake Library, Schuylerville Public Library, Basloe Library in Herkimer, the Barker Library in Niagara County and the Dunkirk Library in Chautauqua County.
- Securing \$480,000 in funding for the Victor-Farmington Library through a school district ballot proposition in 2015
- Turning around a losing situation in Spring Valley where the Finkelstein Memorial Library lost its budget vote in 2008 and successfully passed the library's budget this year with 70% of the vote.
- Overwhelmingly passing a school district ballot proposition for the Jervis Public Library in Rome, NY with 74% of the vote.

Post was tapped by United for Libraries, the national Public Libraries Friends, Trustees and Foundations organization, to be an advocacy trainer for their Neal-Schuman grant program. She worked with libraries in Michigan, Minnesota, California and Connecticut. The Clarkston-Independence Public Library and the Salem-South Lyon Public Library, both in Michigan, won their votes after following Post's strategy. The Public Library of New London was able to increase its direct municipal funding by 20% after Post worked with their board and friends group. Post is presently working with the Connecticut Library Association on strengthening their advocacy program and is conducting advocacy trainings for the Connecticut State Library. In 2016, she provided advocacy strategy and training for the Appleton Public Library in Wisconsin and conducted her five-part Library Campaign Training for the Arkansas State Library. Post is also a certified Turning the Page trainer for the Public Library Association and will be delivering the keynote for the 2016 Southeast Florida Library Network annual meeting.

Post is now on the board of United for Libraries where she is chair of the organization's advocacy committee. Post was a contributing editor of *Library Hotline*, a Library Journal publication for public library directors and trustees. She writes a monthly "Trustee Corner" column on library advocacy. She also sat on the American Library Association's Committee on Library Advocacy.

She is most comfortable with the challenges of building a new organization from scratch from developing its brand to building membership to solidifying governance and creating a strong, solid organization. She has done just that for the New York State Animal Protection Federation which represents the state's humane societies, SPCAs and municipal animal shelters. She serves as the organization's executive director and has built the organization's statewide profile. The Federation is now sought after to participate in animal policy discussions.

Post has extensive volunteer and professional not-for-profit experience and has been instrumental in the organizational development of the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council (now known as The Pride Center of the Capital Region), the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society and Congregation Ohav Shalom.

She was president of Congregation Ohav Shalom from 2012-2016. She has served on the board of directors of Faith in America, a national not for profit dedicated to exposing religion-based bigotry and the harm it does to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. She also served as President of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

From 1999-2004, Post served as President of the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council. During her tenure, she provided insightful leadership that enabled the organization to grow in ways never thought possible. The Council's budget tripled, its board of directors understood its role as policy makers and fund raisers, it was seen as a resource for the greater community and it greatly expanded its program offerings. As President, Post put her professional skills to work and shepherded the Council through a rebranding process that has been well received in the local community..

In 1991, Post became the founding co-chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's statewide lesbian and gay political organization. Since its inception, the Pride Agenda has become one of the most powerful and influential lobbying and political action committee organizations in the state. In June 1993, Post received a public citation from Governor Cuomo for her work on behalf of the lesbian and gay community.

She is now a regular Monday morning panelist on WAMC/Northeast Public Radio's The Roundtable where she contributed political commentary from 2004 to 2010. She previously wrote ProudlyOut, her LGBT blog, for Albany Times-Union. She has been Political Editor of GayWired.com, one of the leading LGBT news and entertainment sites on the Web. She has contributed to Advocate.com, the website of the nation's lesbian and gay news magazine. Her work has appeared on PageOneQ, 365gay.com and she wrote the bi-weekly *Lesbian Notions* column for Q Syndicate from 2004-2008.

Post has received numerous honors. In May 2015, she was named Rockefeller College's Distinguished Alumna in Political Science. In November 2015, she received an award from the Empire State Pride Agenda as the honored the organization's founders at its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. In May 2013, she received the prestigious Harvey Mile Alumni Award from the University at Albany. In 2012, she was named Media Person of the Year by the Women's Press Club of New York State. In June 2005, she received Community Service Award from the University at Albany Alumni Association. In October 2004, she received the Council Leadership/Lifetime Achievement Award from the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council. In addition to this honor, the Council Leadership Award was named in her honor. In 2000, she was named one of the 100 Women of Excellence by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce. She completed the Chamber's 2003 Capital Leadership Program and her business recently received the Chamber's Small Business Council Community Service Award. In addition, she received the 1997 Council Leadership Award from the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council, Inc., the 1995 Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award from Capital District Citizen Action, the 1994 Making Waves Award from the Albany Area N.O.W, the 1992 National Association of Social Workers Public Citizen of the Year award, and the 1989 Tribute to Women Award from the YWCA.

Post holds a Master's Degree in Political Communications from the University at Albany/SUNY. She lives in Menands, NY with her spouse, Lynn Dunning-Vaughn, 2 cats and a golden retriever named Shayna. Libby and Lynn have a 34 year old son, Alex, who is an organic farmer in Massachusetts.