



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo Hosts 'Library Lovers' Podcast Featuring Dennis Walcott

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. February 11, 2025



Senator Addabbo had a deep discussion about libraries with podcast guest Dennis Walcott.

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. recently hosted a special edition of his podcast, "Where Do We Go from Here?" in celebration of February's National Library Lovers Month. The episode featured a discussion with Dennis Walcott, the President and CEO of the Queens Public Library.

The full podcast can be viewed on Senator Addabbo's YouTube Channel at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/gXT7SlbhTGA>

National Library Lovers Month serves as a reminder of the invaluable role libraries play in our communities, dedicated to reading and fostering a love for books. Senator Addabbo is a passionate advocate for libraries, consistently allocating funding each fiscal year to support various programs at Queens Public Library (QPL) within his district.

“Libraries are essential pillars of our communities, providing not just access to books, but also fostering creativity, learning, and connection among residents,” Addabbo said.

He also frequently hosts mobile office hours at library locations across his district. So that he can directly meet with his constituents one-on-one and listen to their issues and concerns.

Queens Public Library stands as one of the largest and busiest public library systems in the nation, according to Walcott, catering to the country’s most ethnically and culturally diverse population with 66 locations across the borough.

During the podcast, Walcott highlighted the diverse amenities QPL offers beyond traditional reading resources. He discussed initiatives like the summer meals program, bookmobiles, and book bikes that deliver literature to those unable to travel to a library. Additionally, QPL serves as a cooling center during the hot summer months and offers numerous workshops and classes in multiple languages.

“QPL has just adopted a new strategic plan, which lays out our priorities for the next five years to ensure we remain a vibrant, essential institution for future generations,” Walcott stated. “Our priorities include improving and expanding programs and services for immigrants, teens, and older adults, as well as promoting climate literacy. We believe these priorities will deepen our impact in areas of great need.”

Walcott also expressed excitement about the upcoming transformation of the Rego Park Library, which will be replaced by a brand-new two-story building, further enhancing the

community's access to resources and services.