



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Flanagan

## Senator Flanagan Announces State Funding For Construction Projects At Local Libraries

JOHN J. FLANAGAN August 9, 2018

| ISSUE: **PUBLIC LIBRARIES, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY**



**Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan (2nd Senate District) has announced that four library systems in the region will be receiving state funding to offset the cost of their construction projects. The state grants, funding for which was allocated in the 2017-18 State Budget for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects, are administered by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Library.**

“Public libraries are more than books – they are community centers that provide valuable programs and services. They are a proven resource for residents of all ages and we need to

continue to work with the leaders of these facilities to provide them with the funding they need to fulfill their mission,” stated Senator Flanagan.

Four library districts in Senator Flanagan’s Senate district will be receiving a total of \$209,638 for a variety of projects that will deliver better and more enjoyable services to library patrons. Specifically, the following libraries will be receiving funds under the grant program:

- Emma S. Clark Memorial Library - \$9,638 for the installation of energy-efficient LED fixtures and bulbs
- Middle Country Public Library - \$130,000 for interior renovations at the Selden branch including the expansion of the lobby and a redesigned entrance that will be easier to access from the library’s main parking lot for patrons.
- Northport Public Library - \$25,000 to upgrade Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) unit and duct work at their East Northport building.
- The Smithtown Library - \$45,000 for renovations at the Smithtown, Nesconset and Commack branches. These include:

- Smithtown building - installation of a new sidewalk, curbs, asphalt paving, site drainage, sump pump, and parking lot lighting.

- Commack building - installation of a new parking lot, sidewalks, curbs, and site lighting.

- Nesconset building - installation of a new backup generator.

“Our library is very appreciative of this construction grant award, as it will help fund the renovation of the library’s Selden building. The project will also see the creation of a new 24 hour drive up return station, as well as redesigned and renovated spaces for adult and children, which will help the library more effectively provide resources and services to its patrons,” stated Sophia Serlis-McPhillips, Director of the Middle Country Public Library.

"The Smithtown Library wishes to thank Senator Flanagan for his tremendous work on our library's behalf. His continued commitment to our libraries recognizes the vital work that we do every day in life-long education, small business support, employment assistance, and connecting all New Yorkers to the digital world," said Rob Lusack, Director of The Smithtown Library.

"This is win-win for our patrons who won't have to directly fund the project, and at the same time will get a more efficient library that will help save them money for years to come. Senator Flanagan's efforts in supporting libraries are much appreciated, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, thanks again for being a friend of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library," added Ted Gutmann, Director of Emma S. Clark Memorial Library.

"This funding will enable the Library to replace a 20-year old, inefficient lower level HVAC unit that serves the Children's Library, Children's Program Room, Community Room and Art Gallery. The newer model will help provide our patrons and staff with a more enjoyable experience while also saving our taxpayers money on future energy costs. We thank Senator Flanagan for securing the funding we were able to access and for being a constant champion for libraries," said Nancy Morcerf, Northport-East Northport Library Assistant Director.

Continuing their commitment to the libraries of the state, the Legislature approved an additional \$34 million in funding for projects as part of the 2018-19 State Budget. The approved projects for that funding will be announced in the summer 2019.