



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Senator Gallivan Announces Funding for Local Libraries

JIM RANNEY August 8, 2019

| ISSUE: **LIBRARY FUNDING**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) announced allocations of state aid to support library construction projects throughout the 59th State Senate District. The funds are from \$34 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the FY2018-2019 State Budget. Local libraries awarded funding are:

- Lancaster Public Library - \$35,571 to renovate two restrooms to be ADA compliant.

- Henrietta Public Library - \$1,090,211 for a new roof, HVAC, generator, lighting system & other interior upgrades.
- Avon Free Library - \$187,373 to replace entrance door; generator; install new HVAC.
- Lima Public Library - \$79,826 for roof replacement.
- Stevens Memorial Library, Attica - \$59,661 for interior renovations.
- Warsaw Public Library - \$10,664 for interior and exterior renovations including sidewalks.

“Libraries provide important services and resources for residents of all ages and are an integral part of their communities,” Senator Gallivan said. “Many of our public library buildings are in need of repairs or renovations and these grants will make it possible for libraries to upgrade their facilities in order to make them more accessible, efficient and better able to serve patrons.”

New York’s public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$1.7 billion. More than 52% of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 31% are more than three decades old. Many of New York’s local public libraries are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, are energy inefficient, and cannot provide Internet, computer, and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring. Many do not have sufficient space to house the library’s expanding collection, address the need for adequate meeting room, or provide for public access computers.

Project activities and expenditures eligible for funding from the State Aid for Library Construction Program include financing construction of new library buildings, construction

of additions to existing buildings, and the renovation and/or rehabilitation of existing space. Projects may include roof replacement, purchase and installation of alternative energy resources, new HVAC systems, windows, doors, lighting systems, electrical upgrades, and construction of new or replacement of old walkways and parking lots. Broadband infrastructure projects are also eligible. Renovations designed to provide accessibility for patrons with disabilities are a high priority.

In the FY2019-2020 State Budget, the Legislature provided \$14 million for projects that will be announced in summer 2020.