



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Senator Gallivan Announces State Aid for Library Construction Projects

JIM RANNEY October 16, 2020

| ISSUE: **LIBRARIES**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) announces that nine public libraries throughout the 59th NYS Senate District are being allocated a total of \$603,271 in state aid for library construction projects. The funds will enable the libraries to upgrade facilities or make needed repairs. The funds are from \$34 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the FY2019-2020 State Budget.

"Libraries play such an important role in their communities, especially in rural areas," Senator Gallivan said. "This funding will allow them to upgrade their aging facilities, lower energy costs and improve services for residents at a time when more and more people are relying on libraries for internet access, education support and to help with career advancement."

The following libraries will receive funds.

Boston Free Library: \$4,618 to replace HVAC system with a new energy efficient system.

Eden Library: \$21,893 to replace air conditioning units.

Ewell Free Library, Alden: \$24,677 to replace flat roof, replace circulation desk & carpeting.

North Collins Public Library: \$11,137 to replace the HVAC system.

Cordelia A. Greene Library, Castile: \$3,345 to replace light fixtures & lights with LEDs.

Perry Public Library: \$84,100 to replace stairs, walkway and landing.

Stevens Memorial Library, Attica: \$7,968 to restore & preserve rooftop cupola.

Caledonia Library Association: \$66,041 for new roof, HVAC system, windows, electrical upgrades, carpet and asbestos abatement.

Wadsworth Library, Geneseo: \$379,492 to expand children's area, add business center and teen area and expand meeting room.

A recent survey of New York's public libraries showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$1.5 billion. More than 52% of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across the state 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are energy inefficient, cannot provide Internet and computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring.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.

In the FY2020-2021 State Budget, the Legislature provided \$14 million for projects that will be announced in Summer 2021.