

# Trustee Advocacy Night

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

A LIBRARY IS  
NOT A LUXURY  
BUT ONE OF THE  
NECESSITIES OF  
LIFE.

HENRY WARD BEECHER



**westchester**  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Empowering libraries. Empowering communities.

# Tonight's Agenda

- Introduction by WLS Board President Karen Zevin
- Library Aid
- Public Library Construction Aid
- Civil Service Regulations
- Open Meetings Law
- 2022 Advocacy Day
- Links to Learn More
- Q&A - Summation

Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Budget for FY 2022-2023 includes \$96.1 Million for Library Aid. In recent public forums on the NYS budget, WLS has supported the New York Library Association's (NYLA) request for an increase of Library Aid to \$123.1 Million.

Even though the operational expenses of running a library have continued to rise, Library Aid funding over the past 2 years has seen a slight decline from \$96.6 Million in 2019-2020 to \$94.1 Million in 2021-2022.

2007 was the first and only time Library Aid was fully funded under Education Law.

Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.

Increased aid will allow for expanded collections via subscriptions and e-titles, the retention of new staff and creation of comprehensive programming for beginners and advanced learners.

# Library Aid

# Public Library Construction Aid

NYLA's recommended increase in Public Library Construction Aid from the proposed \$14 Million to \$45 Million recognizes that more investment is needed to maintain and develop the physical infrastructure of New York State's libraries in order to ensure a safe, accessible and sustainable environment for the future.

In 2021, an allocation of \$34 million was made to the Library Construction Aid Program. This came in the wake of the same \$20 Million decrease in 2020 that we are facing this year.

Increased investment would allow public libraries to maintain and develop their physical infrastructure to ensure they are safe, accessible, and sustainable for everyone.

Many public libraries in New York State fall under civil service and must hire their full time staff through their county or city civil service process. The Westchester County Department of Human Resources is responsible for civil service administration for Westchester County, the Westchester Medical Center, the cities of Peekskill and Rye and all of the towns and villages in the county and their associated school districts. The cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains and Yonkers are separate civil service agencies, and administer their own examinations independent of Westchester County.

The goal is to make it easier for Civil Service to create updated job descriptions and to adjust the competitive criteria used so that directors could more effectively and efficiently attract, hire and retain staff best suited to today's community-engaged public libraries.

## Civil Service Regulations

# Open Meetings Law



What lessons learned from hosting virtual public meetings during the pandemic can be applied to the existing laws to maximize the transparency and accessibility of public meetings?

Updating Open Meetings Law to give organizations hosting options is ideal: an onsite meeting, an online meeting, or a hybrid meeting setup.

Currently, remote participation in open meetings has been extended through March 16, 2022.

# LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY

SAVE THE DATE | MARCH 2ND, 2022

Join us next ***Wednesday, March 2nd at 9 am*** to hear from our local legislators.

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Make Your Voice Heard

## **Library Aid:**

[https://www.nyla.org/userfiles/Advocacy/2022\\_Library\\_Aid\\_One\\_Pager.pdf](https://www.nyla.org/userfiles/Advocacy/2022_Library_Aid_One_Pager.pdf)

## **Public Library Construction Aid:**

[https://www.nyla.org/userfiles/uploads/2022\\_Construction\\_One\\_Pager.pdf](https://www.nyla.org/userfiles/uploads/2022_Construction_One_Pager.pdf)

## **Civil Service Guide for Library Trustees:**

<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/handbook/cs101.htm>

## **How you can be an advocate:**

<https://www.nyla.org/lad2022/?menukey=advocacy#Library%20Advocacy%20Day%20Materials>