



540 White Plains Road, Suite 200
Tarrytown, NY 10591-5110
phone 914-674-3600
fax 914-674-4185
www.westchesterlibraries.org

LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY ***Wednesday, February 25, 2015***

Governor Andrew Cuomo has released his Executive Budget for FY2015-16. Included in this proposed budget is **\$86.627 Million** for Library Aid as well as separate amounts of **\$14 Million** for Public Library Construction Grant Program and **\$1.3 Million** for reimbursement to libraries subject to the MTA Commuter Tax.

While this is a slight increase from what the Governor included in his Executive Budget last year, and recognizes the \$5 Million that the legislators had added, this remains a **0% increase** over the final amounts included in the FY2014-15 enacted budget.

Library Aid is nearly **20% less** than what is legally required by Education Law and is at **1997** levels.

In addition, libraries are educational institutions chartered by the NYS Board of Regents, administered by the State's Education Department, and like schools, receive both State and local funds to serve the educational needs of their communities. However, total education spending in FY2014-15 increased **5.7%**, but Library Aid spending increased only **1.2%**.

Therefore, we are asking our legislators to fund Library Aid to the full extent of the law -- **\$102.6 Million**.

WLS is organizing transportation to Albany via minivans/automobiles for Westchester Advocates only. The tentative schedule is below:

7:00 AM Depart from WLS Headquarters, 540 White Plains Road, Tarrytown
NOTE: Depending on the response, one vehicle may depart from a northern location

ACTIVITIES IN ALBANY: Legislative Appointments & New York Library Association (NYLA) Library Rally [exact schedule to be confirmed]

1:00 PM Return to Westchester around 4 PM

Please contact Elise Burke at 914-231-3225 or via email at eburke@wlsmail.org to register for the trip or for any other questions.

CAN'T GET TO ALBANY?

There are other options to make your voice heard:

- Visit your local library and participate in a postcard campaign to your State Representatives to let them know that library aid should be funded to the full extent of the law.
- Send an email to the Governor. [Click here](#) to visit NYLA's Online Advocacy.
- Post to Facebook or Twitter. [Click here](#) to visit NYLA's Virtual Advocacy.
- Make a phone call to your Representatives. [Click here](#) for information specifically for Westchester's Senate & Assembly members.

The *Advocates of the Westchester Library System (WLS)* are citizens like you who mobilize to help inform local officials about the importance of Westchester's libraries! Act today by going to our website: [Advocates of Westchester Library System](#).

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**

This email was sent to kmeyer@wlsmail.org by eburke@wlsmail.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today

Westchester Library System | 540 White Plains Road | Suite 200 | Tarrytown | NY | 10591