New York State Legislature Westchester Delegation
2/3/2017 Public Forum re Governor's proposed FY2017-18 Executive Budget

TALKING POINTS

GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR NYS FISCAL YEAR 2017-18
FACTS:

• $91.6 Million for Library Aid
 	
     ○ 0% increase from that proposed last year
 	
     ○ 4% decrease from the actual amount included in the enacted 2016-17 budget
 	
     ○ 11% less than what is legally required by Education Law ($102.6 Million)
 	
     ○ 0% increase in Education Law requirements since 2007/08 (1.56% inflation)

• $14 Million for Public Library Construction Grant Program
 	
     ○ 26% decrease from the $19 Million included with the enacted 2016-17 budget
 	
     ○ WLS's 2016 Construction Grant submitted projects had Total cost of $5.4 Million; yet WLS's allocation = $888,790

• 4.7% increase in Education funding vs. 0% increase for Library Aid—even though libraries are educational institutions chartered by the same Board of Regents and administered by the State's Education Department

LIBRARIES & LIBRARY SYSTEMS ARE MODELS OF SHARED SERVICES
FACTS:

• Westchester Library System (WLS), one of the 23 library systems in NYS, provides economies of scale by centralizing services for libraries vs. each library providing and paying for the same services individually.
 	
• Local communities realize $7 in services for every $1 allocated in State aid (according to the State Education Department)
 	
• WLS's infrastructure network alone translates to the following values:
 	
     ○ Online Integrated Library System = **$8.9 Million**
 	
     ○ Wired & Wireless Network = **$3.65 Million**
 	
     ○ Public Access/Staff PCs = **$1.8 Million**