

Westchester Library Association  
Legislative Report  
April 10, 2014  
Submitted by Donna Pesce, Legislative Chair

An April 1 email from Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director, New York Library Association stated the following:

For all intent and purpose, the FY2014-15 NYS Budget is now finalized.

Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget Proposal cut Library Aid by \$4M to FY2012-13 levels of \$81.6M.

The Assembly proposed increasing the Executive's proposal by \$2M to \$83.6M.

The Senate proposed increasing Library Aid beyond the Executive's proposal by \$8M to \$89.6M.

As the three proposals were reconciled into a final budget, **Library Aid has been set at \$86.6M**, an increase of \$5M over the Executive Budget, and \$1M above FY2013-14. The \$5M Legislative add to Library Aid is the largest since 2007 and the second largest in well over a decade.

The FY2014-15 Budget also once again includes \$14M for the Library Construction Aid Program, and \$1.3M for an MTA Payroll Tax Rebate.

Please see copies of NYLA's Reaction to the budget. Concerns include the following:

- The percentage increase for library aid is still far below that of other educational organizations.
- Matching for library construction aid is decreasing. Despite the need to update and maintain libraries.
- Libraries are still being charged the MTA payroll tax, unlike other educational institutions.

The following legislators have responded that they will attend the conference:

- State Assembly Member Steven Otis
- State Assembly Member Amy Paulin
- State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
- State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson

A follow-up email will be sent to those who have not responded.

