



SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Colleagues and Friends,

As budget negotiations for the New York State FY 2026 budget continue, the State Legislature has passed a temporary extender, allowing state operations to continue through next Tuesday. This means there is still a small window of time to raise your voice – but we must act now!

Take action now: [Increase NYS library funding in the FY 2026 Budget and stop proposed cuts!](#)

In addition, you can also still send a message to help protect \$8.1 million in federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which supports:

- The distribution of State Aid to over 7,000 libraries and 72 systems
- The management of \$45 million in Public Library Construction Aid
- Librarian certification, trustee education, and technical assistance
- Programs like Ready to Read, Summer Reading at NY Libraries, NOVELny, and DHPSNY
- Preservation of historic collections, including George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's original writings
- This funding supports 55 of 84 positions at the New York State Library and enables countless statewide services that would otherwise be impossible to sustain

Without it, essential services may be cut, and communities throughout the state, including our communities in Suffolk County, will be impacted.

Please reference the above when you write your Federal Congressperson. It outlines in detail what's at stake and why we must act quickly. Share this information with your friends, family, and others who may be interested in joining the cause. Below is the information of the congressmen whose districts comprise the majority of Suffolk County:

Andrew Garbarino

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Patchogue, NY 11772

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Hauppauge, NY 11788

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We get it - we know you are busy and that these are scary times, but your voice matters. We ask you to take just a few moments to contact your state legislators regarding the NYS budget and your local congressperson about IMLS

We encourage you and your support network to contact the relevant state and federal representatives. Remind our representatives that libraries are not luxuries - they are lifelines. Share with them that this is a quality of life issue and that our work enriches our communities and populations.

Join us and stand in solidarity with our fellow professional associations that have spoken in defense of our industry, the continuation of library and museum services, and the enrichment of our communities.

Thank you for your time and attention.

On behalf of the Suffolk County Library Association Board,

Anthony Giansante
President
Suffolk County Library Association