



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUBJECT:** Funding Public Libraries.

**PURPOSE:** To examine the 2015 -2016 State Budget's impact on libraries.  
in New York State.

**NEW YORK CITY**

Friday  
November 6, 2015  
10:30 a.m.

The New York Public Library  
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Celeste Auditorium  
476 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

The final approved budget for 2015 - 16 provided \$91.627 million in state aid for libraries and library systems. This is an approximate increase of 5.7%, or \$5 million from the 2014-15 budget allocation of \$86.627 million. The budget required that funding for libraries was distributed proportionately to assure that all programs continued to receive funds. The Public Library Construction Grant Program was allocated \$14 million in Capital funding for the ninth consecutive year.

This hearing will seek testimony on the impact the 2015-16 State budget has had on public libraries and library systems across New York State. The Committee is interested in hearing about the programs and services libraries are providing in their local communities and how libraries are using collaboration and technology to better leverage their resources. The Committee is also seeking testimony to ascertain the future funding needs of our public libraries and the Public Library Construction Grant Program.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**THOMAS ABINANTI**

**Member of Assembly  
Chair**

**Committee on Libraries and Education Technology**



**Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology**

**Funding Public Libraries in New York State**

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**Witness List**

Bernard Margolis, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and Acting State Librarian  
State Education Department

Claudia Depkin, Chairperson  
Regents Advisory Council on Libraries

Mike Nepl, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy  
New York Library Association

**New York City Library Panel**

David Woloch, Executive Vice President External Affairs  
Brooklyn Public Library

George Mihaltses, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs  
New York Public Library

Ms. Bridget Quinn-Carey, Interim President and CEO  
Queens Library

Nate Hill, Director  
Metro New York Library Counsel

**Library Systems Panel**

Robert Hubsher, Executive Director  
Ramapo Catskill Library System

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability  
Mid- Hudson Library System

Terry Kirchner, Director  
Westchester Library System

**New York Library Panel**

Bernadette (Brie) Harrison, Finance Director  
Rochester Public Library

Erica Freudenberger  
Red Hook Public Library