



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Monica R. Martinez

Sen. Martinez Announces State Funds to Help Libraries Enhance Facilities

MONICA R. MARTINEZ September 30, 2024

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Several libraries serving the New York State Senate's Fourth Senatorial District will soon be turning a new page as they improve their facilities to better serve patrons. State Sen. Monica R. Martinez announced today that the Babylon, Deer Park, West Babylon, and West Islip public libraries have been awarded more than \$410,000 through the State Aid for Library Construction program to make critical infrastructure improvements. These upgrades will

allow the libraries to remain welcoming and functional spaces for the community.

The grants awarded are as follows:

- **Babylon Public Library** - \$80,810 - Roof restoration and associated work
- **Deer Park Public Library** - \$100,000 - Roof removal and replacement
- **West Babylon Public Library** - \$94,275 - Replacement of concrete pavers in front and side areas of facility
- **West Islip Public Library** - \$135,000 - Replacement of HVAC unit, VAV boxes, and control units

“Much like a well-read book whose binding and pages wear down over time, so too does the physical library building,” said Sen. Martinez. “These renovations will ensure these community centers stack up to the demands placed on them and provide safer, more accessible spaces where everyone can learn, connect, and grow. I’m proud to support these efforts to keep our libraries running smoothly for all who visit them.”

More than half of New York’s public library buildings are over 60 years old, with many others facing challenges such as outdated infrastructure and limited accessibility. The State Aid for Library Construction program addresses these issues by providing critical support to modernize facilities so they can continue serving their communities effectively. The 2023-2024 state budget allocated \$34 million in capital funds for public library construction, with some projects receiving up to 75% of eligible costs. These funds help libraries upgrade their spaces and adapt to evolving community needs, including projects that enhance heating and cooling systems, improve broadband access, create spaces for community activities, and make other essential renovations to ensure they remain welcoming, energy-efficient, and fully accessible.