



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 210  
EFFECTIVE May 12, 2024

WHEREAS, For many people, public libraries are their only means of access to computer services and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy and provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research needs for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island in Article XII, Section I, states that it “shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services”; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library’s private endowment; and

WHEREAS, Between FY 2009 and FY 2022 the State of Rhode Island did *not* fund state aid to libraries at the twenty-five (25%) level as required by RI General Laws 29-6-2; and

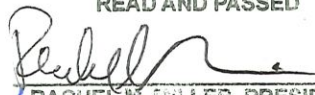

WHEREAS, In FY 2023 and FY 2024, state aid to libraries was funded at the twenty-five (25%) level; and


WHEREAS, The Governor’s proposed FY 2025 budget level funds state aid to libraries, which translates to 24.18% of the required state aid; this means the City of Providence would receive \$50,197 less than they would at the required 25% level. The Governor has projected level funding until FY 2029; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council, in support of the Community Libraries of Providence and Providence Public Library, do hereby support legislation in the Rhode Island House (H7335) and Rhode Island Senate (S2589), which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws Section 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to the members of Providence’s legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 02 2024  
READ AND PASSED  
  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature  
  
Tina L. Mastroianni  
City Clerk