

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

TOWN OF TIVERTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-0004

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO
LIBRARIES TO THE FULL TWENTY-FIVE (25%) PERCENT LEVEL**

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%) percent 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%) percent level as required by R.I. General Laws § 29-6-2; and

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

WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposed FY 2025 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.18%,

WHEREAS, the Town of Tiverton 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 Tiverton Town Council, at the request of the Tiverton Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in R.I. General Laws § 29-6-2(a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tiverton Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to the members of Tiverton legislative delegation in the Rhode Island General Assembly as well as to all cities and towns within the State.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

Adopted by the Town Council: March 11, 2024

Attest:



Tiverton Town Clerk

Introduced by: Councilor Jay Edwards