

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H7691 RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

RESOLUTION 2026-0018

WHEREAS, H7691 has been introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly to require that the state’s share to support public library services in fiscal year 2027 be fixed at twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended by the city or town in the second preceding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, public libraries bridge the digital divide, providing low-income, rural, and vulnerable populations with crucial tools for economic and educational opportunities by providing valuable access to computers and Wi-Fi; and

WHEREAS, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all and functioning as accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community; and

WHEREAS, modern libraries have evolved into essential community anchors, providing equitable access to information and technology far beyond their traditional physical boundaries; 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, the Governor’s proposed FY 2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%; and

WHEREAS, Tiverton recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2027; and

WHEREAS, at the full 25% funding level the Town of Tiverton would receive an additional \$7,750 in funding for its library; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Tiverton does hereby support H7691 and S2812.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to the members of Tiverton’s legislative delegation in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilor Deborah Janick

Passed as a Resolution of the Tiverton Town Council this _____ of May, 2026

ATTEST: Joan Chabot Town Clerk