

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38

THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

---

## RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

“Requesting support to fully funding state aid to libraries to the full Twenty-five  
(25) percent”

### Resolution No. 2026-44

**Whereas**, for people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to computers and Wi-Fi; and

**Whereas**, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

**Whereas**, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community; and

**Whereas**, today’s libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a building, and everyone is welcome to use their resources; 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**, the Town of Coventry recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2027; and

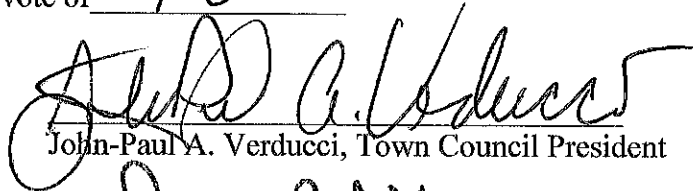
**Whereas**, at the full 25% funding level the Town of Coventry would receive an additional \$10,320 for its libraries; and

39 **Whereas**, H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support  
40 of full funding of state aid to libraries; and

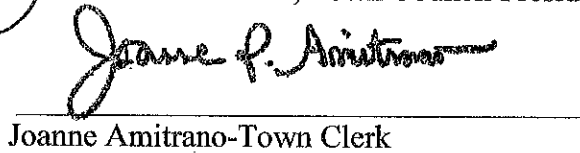
41  
42 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Honorable Town Council, at the request  
43 of the Coventry Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would  
44 restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-  
45 6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Coventry Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this  
48 Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance  
49 Committee, and to the members of Coventry's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General  
50 Assembly.

51  
52 Passed or Denied on April 28, 2026 on a vote of 4-0

53  
54  
55   
56 John-Paul A. Verducci, Town Council President

57  
58 Certification by Town Clerk by:

59   
60 Joanne Amitrano-Town Clerk  
61  
62