

TOWN OF BRISTOL

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

“FY 2025 STATE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR FUNDING ROGERS FREE LIBRARY,  
BRISTOL”

No.

Passed:

Nathan Calouro

Town of Bristol, Council Chairman

*Whereas*, for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to books, computer services, technology training, 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 of all citizens; and

*Whereas*, the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island at Article XII, Section 1 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 funds state aid to libraries at 24.18%, which is \$7,182 less than the Town of Bristol would receive at the required 25% level; and

*Whereas*, the Town of Bristol supports fully funding State Aid to Libraries at the 25% level in FY 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Honorable Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, as follows:

Requests that the Rogers Free Library Public Library Board of Trustees support legislation to restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% required in R.I. Gen. Laws §29-6-2 (a) and urges Bristol's state legislative delegation of senators and representatives to the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage; and

Directs the Bristol Town Clerk transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and members of the Town of Bristol's state legislative delegation.

DRAFT