



*The Voice of the Library Community*

## New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084  
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX  
info@nyla.org  
www.nyla.org

NYLA is closely monitoring the rapidly changing legislative season including, most recently, the process to determine and implement a state-wide budget. COVID-19 has upended the traditional process that we have become familiar with and instead replaced it with uncertainty.

At this time, the one-house budgets from the state's Senate and Assembly appear to be off the table. With ever-changing revenue projections, the proposals that both houses had been drafting prior to the pandemic, became moot. Deemed essential by the Governor, the Legislature is making accommodations to allow members to participate virtually. However, it is still undetermined whether they will convene for the remainder of the calendar year after the budget is adopted.

Governor Cuomo has signaled (3/26) that he is considering a 'flexible budget' that will be reevaluated on a continuous basis, with adjustments built in at each step to reflect the state's fiscal health. The proposal led to more questions than we have been provided answers. The final crafting of the FY2020-21 New York State budget is expected to take place largely 'behind the scenes' between the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Assembly Speaker.

Prior to yesterday's briefing, the Governor stated, "To be advocating for more state funding is beyond the pale of a colorable claim," and continued, "The state is broke."

Historically, NYLA has asked the community to engage in traditional grassroots efforts that include letter writing or telephone-campaigns. However, given the current landscape, we shifted our advocacy strategy and completed targeted messaging instead. In addition, the NYLA staff is hard at work interacting with members of the Legislature, their staff members, members of the press, and allied associations to gather information and influence the outcomes.

We know the next few weeks feel uncertain and for many, it's overwhelming, but we are confident in the commitment of the New York library community and their ability to serve their patrons with the essential resources and information they need. We are strongest together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Johannesen".

Jeremy Johannesen  
NYLA Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Briana N. McNamee".

Briana McNamee  
NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy