

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **\$500,000 for Improvements at Edward Smith Library in North Branford Announced**



Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that the Edward Smith Library in the Northford section of North Branford is expected to receive \$500,000 in funding for expansion and renovation when the state Bond Commission meets June 29.

The Edward Smith Library is one of two libraries in the Town of North Branford; the other, the Atwater Memorial Library, is in North Branford center. Both are in need of major renovation. After thorough study, the Town Council and Library Board have decided to expand and renovate them one at a time so that one is always open for patrons.

The state funding will allow the Edward Smith Library to expand to house its current collection and allow space for future growth and services. The addition will increase its size from 5,200 square feet to more than 10,600 square feet. The project will also include an elevator, meeting room, children's program area, study and reading rooms, new restrooms, staff offices, increased parking, space for young adult readers and new furnishings.

"It is wonderful to see communities update and expand their libraries, ensuring they remain useful and lively places," Governor Rell said. "Not only will this funding help the Edward Smith Library improve its living space and facilities, it will also improve its energy efficiency by overhauling the heating and air conditioning system. Libraries are important public spaces – it is important to keep them in good shape."

"I am extremely pleased that Governor Rell has recognized the need for this project by awarding the library this significant grant," said state Rep. Vincent Candelora (R-North Branford). "The expansion will play a vital role in enhancing library services and creating much needed programming and meeting space in Northford."

North Branford is one of eight towns slated to receive a total of more than \$2.6 million in funding for improvements under the Library Construction grant program through the Bond Commission.