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Jesse White Awards More Than \$2.6 Million in Construction Grants to Four Public Libraries

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than \$2.6 million in construction grants to library districts in Palatine, Hanover Park, Hillsboro and Walnut. The grants, which are for permanent capital improvements to public libraries, are the first awarded for the Public Library Construction Act Grant Program. The \$45 billion capital plan was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the governor in July 2019.

“Our public libraries are cornerstones of our communities and the best information resources available to the public,” said White. “I am pleased to award these grants through the Illinois State Library to help maintain the infrastructure of the public libraries.”

The following libraries have met criteria for local cost share and are the first to be awarded a grant:

- **Palatine Public Library District** – \$1,841,568. The award will be used toward a \$5,261,623 major interior renovation project of all of its public spaces.
- **Poplar Creek Public Library District** – \$95,556. The award will be used toward a \$349,321 addition of an 800-square-foot meeting and activities room to its Hanover Park Branch.
- **Hillsboro Area Public Library District** – \$643,186. The award will be used toward a \$1,043,070 project to convert a former bank building into a library to replace the over 100-year-old current library.
- **Walnut Public Library District** – \$23,177. The award will be used toward a \$36,000 project to replace all of its exterior windows.

The amount awarded to each library is a percentage of the total cost of the project and is determined by a formula established in the legislation that created the program. Remaining project costs are local responsibility. Applications for the grant program are accepted annually and are due by April 15. Information concerning the Illinois State Library’s Public Library Construction Act Grant Program can be found at: https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html.

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