

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Anne Gobi Secures Funding for Local Projects in FY19 Budget

BOSTON – As the Massachusetts Senate debates their funding proposal for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has been very active in working to secure funding for local projects in the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex District. Gobi was able to ensure that over \$600,000 was dedicated to a range of initiatives in the district.

“Advocating for local projects is a part of the budget process and making sure funds find their way west of 495 for is necessary,” said Senator Gobi. “I appreciate the support of my colleagues for these important projects.”

The projects ranged from invasive weed treatment to food pantry assistance to infrastructure investments. Below is a list of projects:

- \$50,000 for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the District 4 American Legion. This centennial celebration will begin on June 15th, 2019 with a parade, followed by a family fun day with activities at the Spencer Fairgrounds. Food, exhibits and live entertainment are being planned to fill the day, ending with a fireworks display.
- \$25,000 for the renovation of the Old Rutland Fire House and museum and to commemorate the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Rutland Volunteer Fire Brigade.
- \$100,000 for repairs to the roof of the Hubbardston Public Library. Having undergone an interior restoration project in 2016, these funds will go towards replacing the roof on the nearly 150 year-old building.
- \$150,000 for the Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College. Having been a staunch advocate for civic learning and community engagement during his legislative career, this funding

will go towards increasing service learning and volunteerism in North Central Massachusetts, supporting the development of a food pantry and other emergency services for students at risk of dropping out due to financial circumstances, for deliberative dialogues within the community addressing issues of concern within society, and, for programmatic development, updates and technologies within the Center.

- \$50,000 for a dredging project in Lake Wickaboag. Located in the town of West Brookfield, the artificial lake covers approximately 320 acres and is heavily used for recreation year round. The lake is said to be in need of dredging due to high phosphorous levels, algae blooms and weeds which deplete the lake of oxygen needed to maintain healthy animal life.
- \$125,000 for improvements to three park areas in the district, with amounts of \$50,000, \$50,000, and \$25,000 being allocated towards improvements at Howe State Park, Moore State Park, and the creation of a public outdoor gym in Charlton, respectively.
- \$100,000 for improvements to four public safety buildings in the district, with the Ashby Public Safety Building, the Barre Fire Department, the Spencer Police Station, and the Brookfield Fire Department receiving \$50K, \$25K, \$13K, and \$12K respectively.

These amendments will be included in the Senate's final version and subject to conference committee negotiations with the House of Representatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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