



Library Funding & Other Legislative Issues

OLC

OHIO LIBRARY
COUNCIL

Michelle Francis
Executive Director

Jay Smith
Director of Government and
Legal Services

Ohio Library Council

❑ **Big Picture**

- 251 Public Libraries
- 7.7 Million Library Cardholders
- 29.6 Million Library Visits in a Year
- 158 Million Digital and Physical Circulation

❑ **State vs. Local**

- State – Fiscal Year (FY)
- Local – Calendar Year (CY)



Public Library funding

□ History of Ohio Public Library Funding

- Intangible Personal Property Tax
- Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) – Personal Income Tax: 1985-2007
- Public Library Fund (PLF): 2008-Current



Public Library funding

□ PLF

- % of State General Revenue Fund (GRF) Taxes
- PLF Currently Set at 1.7% of State GRF
- 4.0% Increase in CY 2018
- 4.2% Increase in CY 2019
- - 0.2% Decrease in CY 2020
- 13.4% Increase in CY 2021
- 8.18% Increase in CY 2022



PLF Distribution

- ❑ PLF funds distributed to counties
- ❑ Monthly distribution by the 10th of each month
- ❑ Money distributed to libraries by the 15th of each month
- ❑ Budget Commission and distribution within the county



PLF Distribution

▶ PLF Distributions: CY08 Compared to Selected Years

Calendar Year (CY)	Public Library Fund (PLF) Annual Total (millions)	% Change from 2008 base	% Change from year prior
CY 2008	\$450.6		
CY 2009	\$370.4	- 17.8%	- 17.8%
CY 2010	\$347.9	- 22.8%	- 6.1%
CY 2011	\$364.7	- 19.1%	+ 4.8%
CY 2012	\$344.3	- 23.6%	- 5.6%
CY 2013	\$351.9	- 21.9%	+ 2.2%
CY 2014	\$345.1	- 23.4%	- 1.9%
CY 2015	\$380.9	- 15.5%	+ 10.4%
CY 2016	\$377.0	- 16.3%	- 1.0%
CY 2017	\$378.5	- 16.0%	+ 0.4%
CY 2018	\$393.7	- 12.6%	+ 4.0%
CY 2019	\$410.2	- 8.9%	+ 4.2%
CY 2020	\$409.4	- 9.1%	- 0.2%
CY 2021	\$464.4	+ 3.1%	+13.4%

Public Library funding – STATE LEVEL

HB 33: FY 24-25 Biennium Budget

- Healthy State Revenues
- Federal Stimulus Money
- “Libraries Build Success” Campaign
- Permanent Law – PLF Set at 1.70% of State GRF Taxes for FY 24-25



Public Library Fund Estimates vs Actual

▶ LSC Estimates Included in State Budget Documents

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
\$404.3 Million	\$386.3 Million	\$398.1 Million	\$422.3 Million	\$452.0 Million	\$439.0 Million	\$492.0 Million

▶ Actual Distributions

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
\$378.5 Million	\$384.6 Million	\$402.8 Million	\$393.1 Million	\$452.0 Million	\$489.8 Million	
- \$25.8 M	- \$1.7 M	+ \$4.7 M	- \$29.2 M	\$0	+\$50.8 M	



LSC = Legislative Services Commission
FY = Fiscal Year

Local public library funding

□ **Ballot Issues**

- Success Rate
- Libraries with Levies: 202 (more than 80%)
- Bond Issues
- State Funding vs. Local Funding



Local public library funding

□ 2004

- 74 Libraries w/ Levies
- 177 Libraries w/out Levies

□ 2023

- 202 Libraries w/ Levies
- 49 Libraries w/out Levies



Legal & Administrative Issues

- Do I have to do OhioCheckbook.com
- My board resigned
- My staff resigned
- The fiscal officer and director don't get along
- I just got a subpoena
- I got a public records request
- The FBI wants our hard drive
- Do I have to bid our new computers





HB 33 - What's in the Budget?

- Public Library Fund (PLF)
- State Library & OPLIN
- Seed Sharing
- Youth Online Parental Notification
- Governor's Imagination Library

Public Library Fund (PLF) - Commitment to Ohio's Public Libraries

- Funding at new statutory levels in FY 2024 and FY 2025
 - 1.70% (permanent law)
- OBM PLF distribution estimates from Blue Book:
 - FY 2023: \$492 million
 - FY 2024: \$505 million (2.6% increase)
 - FY 2025: \$530 million (5.0% increase)

State Library of Ohio & OPLIN

- State Library
 - 5% Increase in GRF funding from FY23
- Ohio Public Library Information Network (line item)
 - 5% Increase in funding from the PLF

Seed Libraries - Dept. of Agriculture (ODA)

- Exempts seed libraries from certain regulations (labeling, permitting, sales reporting)
- Requires a seed log to identify source of seeds received by the library
- Allows ODA to request access and review the seed log at anytime.

Youth Online Parental Notification

- Prohibits an online operator (such as TikTok or Twitter) from allowing a child under the age of 16 to have access unless they have parental consent.
- Provisions only apply to those online operators whose online services target children.
- Multiple ways to obtain parental consent.
- Enforcement of these provisions under the authority of the Attorney General.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio

- \$16 million to continue the Governor's Imagination Library (\$8 million each fiscal year)

HB 1 - Tax Proposal

- 2.75% Flat Tax (\$1.5 to \$2 Billion Income Tax Cut), reduces the PLF by \$25 to \$34 Million per FY
- Eliminates the 10% Rollback on Class I Property (this includes the rollback benefit to residential property owners and the reimbursement to local governments)
- Reduces the assessment rate on Class I & II Property from 35% to 31.5%
- Includes a secondary property tax reduction factor in addition to HB 920
- Impact on HB 920??



OLC Resources and Tools

<http://libraryfunding.olc.org/>

- Advocacy Tools and Templates
- White Paper and Talking Points
- Statehouse Directory
- Webinar Recordings
- Testimony & News Updates
- ROI Calculator
- Fact Sheets

Message to Lawmakers and Next Steps

- Make public libraries a priority in the state budget
- Maintain PLF funding and set the permanent law language at ***at least*** 1.70% of the State's General Revenue Fund (GRF)
- Hold public libraries harmless from any additional reductions in state funding (HB 1)
- Invite legislators into your libraries and show them the “good” and the “bad”

OLC Legislative Day at the Statehouse - Wed. April 26



Questions?

Jay Smith

jsmith@olc.org

Michelle Francis

mfrancis@olc.org