

NO CUTS TO OHIO LIBRARIES!



Funding FAQs

Library administration has learned that some patrons who have contacted their Representatives in the Ohio House have received responses stating that their budget bill *increases* funding to Ohio Public Libraries. This is not true.

Q: How are Ohio public libraries currently funded?

A: Currently, public libraries in Ohio receive funding through the Public Library Fund (PLF). Each month, the PLF receives 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund.

Q: Does the budget introduced in the Ohio House increase funding to public libraries?

A: No. Governor DeWine's proposed budget would increase the PLF to 1.75% of the general revenue fund. The Ohio House's version of the budget would reduce state funding for Ohio's public libraries by more than \$100 million over the next two years compared to the governor's proposal. In addition, more than 90 libraries in 39 counties would see an immediate reduction in funding on July 1, 2025.

Q: Where will public library funding come from if the PLF is eliminated?

A: Ohio public libraries will be funded in a budget line item, which is a single, lump sum. This type of funding would be vulnerable to a line-item veto in future budget considerations.

Q: Do Ohio public libraries receive more state funding than every other state?

A: In Ohio, public libraries operate independently from city or county governments, unlike in other states. Ohio public libraries need funding for day-to-day operating expenses (building maintenance, staff, utilities, etc.), in addition to all the resources and services we provide for our communities.

Q: What is the return on investment for Ohio public libraries?

A: For every \$1 received by public libraries, Ohioans receive \$5 in library services. Ohio's public libraries are extremely popular, with over 7.4 million cardholders and one of the highest library usage rates in the United States. Ohio public libraries provide free access to physical and digital items, meeting room spaces, summer reading programs, storytimes for early literacy, assistance to job seekers, and countless other resources.