

Letter from the Director to Patrons

Update on Library Funding

We are very appreciative here at the {insert name} Library for the support we receive from our patrons through state funding, {insert a local levy}, and {insert your generous donations to our Foundation and/or Friends Group}. We would not be able to serve you at the current level without your support.

I want to share information with you about the present status of funding for Ohio's public libraries. At the state level, we are fortunate to be funded through the Public Library Fund (PLF) which receives a percentage of the tax revenues from the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Revenue sources for the GRF include the state personal income tax, sales and use tax, business taxes, etc.

The PLF is set at 1.7% of the GRF. Unfortunately, state tax receipts have underperformed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and were \$484.7 million below estimates. Currently, the state is anticipating FY 2025 tax receipts to be lower than FY 2024 by an additional \$348.3 million. This means state funding for libraries is down \$25 million this year alone. The reduction is having an immediate impact on our library's ability to maintain or even expand services. At this time, it is expected that public libraries in Ohio will receive less state funding through the PLF than we received back in the year 2000.

The Ohio Library Council (OLC) is working with Ohio's public libraries to educate members of the Ohio General Assembly and those that will be elected in November on this issue. We know that Ohioans value their public libraries both for providing access to materials and resources as well as for promoting literacy and improving their overall quality of life. We will be working with the OLC during the next several months to restore state funding for Ohio's public libraries. I will keep you posted with updates as we work through this process.

Thank you again for your support. It is an honor to serve our community.