

Preparing for OLC Legislative Day - 2017

The annual Ohio Library Council (OLC) [Legislative Day](#) will be held **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**. The OLC is sending letters to all legislators advising them that library representatives will be calling them to arrange appointments. Even though this year's schedule will include a luncheon with legislators, **attendees are encouraged to still schedule a separate appointment with their legislator(s)** because time for discussion at the luncheon may be limited.

The following tips and guidelines are provided to help you make the day as beneficial as possible for you and your legislators:

- Contact your legislator to make an appointment for March 29.
- Coordinate legislative visits with other library representatives in your area by working with your OLC Legislative Network Representative. **THIS IS CRITICAL**. Legislators are swamped with visits, meetings, and hearings. Combining visits with other libraries is a better use of everyone's time and can mean a bigger impact on the legislator. It is also a good way to demonstrate collaboration. If you are uncertain which libraries are in your legislative district, contact your OLC Legislative Network Representative by checking the Advocacy page of the OLC Website (<http://olc.org/resources/government-relations/advocacy/>).
- OLC Legislative Day attendees are encouraged to **WEAR BLUE!** This will help legislators easily identify library supporters in the hallways of the Ohio Statehouse.
- This year's Legislative Day themes are Protect the PLF and Ohio Libraries Transform. Our lobbying efforts will focus on the state budget and the governor's proposed cuts to the PLF as well as the essential services provided by libraries and how we are transforming our communities. Some of the highlights include:
 - **Briefings and Tools** – Be sure to attend one of the morning briefings to receive the latest information from the Statehouse and to pick up your packet which will include additional tools for use during meetings with your legislators.
 - **OLC Legislative Luncheon & Awards Ceremony** – The OLC will be hosting a luncheon for legislators and attendees in the Statehouse Atrium at 11:45 a.m.
 - **Session** – Both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate will be in session at 1:30 p.m. Please try to stay for part of session and let your legislators know – they like to recognize their constituents during session.
- The Ohio Statehouse recently enacted new security measures including keycard turnstiles, metal detectors and the prohibition of backpacks. Be sure to allot additional time between

meetings for possible security delays. Please review the Statehouse Security FAQ at <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/Assets/Files/1002056.pdf>

- Take a picture with your legislator during your meeting or at the luncheon! Tweet the picture, post it on the library's Facebook page, post it on the library's website, send it to your local media, include it in your next newsletter and remind your legislator to retweet the picture!

In addition to the above information, the OLC will present a [Legislative Day Preparation Webinar](#) on **Monday, March 6 at noon**.