

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate Budget Sets Public Library Fund at 1.7%**

COLUMBUS — Today the Ohio Senate introduced its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 20-21 state budget bill, which included an increase in the Public Library Fund (PLF) from the current level of 1.68% to 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF).

“The Ohio Library Council would like to thank members of the Ohio Senate for their support and commitment to Ohio’s public libraries,” said Douglas Evans, Executive Director, Ohio Library Council. “The Senate’s budget will allow public libraries to provide the essential services that the residents of Ohio deserve and expect, regardless of zip code. It will also help to offset any unintended reductions in state funding resulting from the tax reform changes included in the proposal.”

The PLF makes up an extremely small portion of overall state expenditures (one half of one percent), but it accounts for 48 percent of the total funding for Ohio’s public libraries. In fact, 20 percent of Ohio’s public library systems rely solely on the PLF for their primary source of funding. The funds will be used to help libraries prepare for the online portion and demands of the 2020 census, stabilize older facilities, and ensure that essential services, such as access to computers and the internet, can continue to be provided to Ohioans statewide through their local libraries.

With more than 8.4 million registered borrowers, Ohio’s public libraries are a resource that Ohioans increasingly turn to for a wide variety of services – especially in the areas of early childhood education, broadband connectivity and workforce development. They are also good stewards of taxpayer dollars and a wise investment. For every \$1 spent by Ohio’s public libraries, they return \$5 in economic value to Ohioans.

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