

Preparing for OLC Legislative Day - 2020

The annual Ohio Library Council (OLC) [Legislative Day](#) will be held **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**. The OLC is sending letters to all legislators advising them that library representatives will be calling them to arrange appointments.

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

- Coordinate legislative visits on April 21 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 our lobbying efforts will focus on educating legislators on essential library services. The theme for the Legislative Day is *Ohio Libraries Transform*. Thank legislators for an increase in the state budget. Share how those additional resources are being utilized and impacting the local community. During this non-budget year we want our lobbying efforts to focus on the value, impact and services provided by libraries. We want to put an emphasis on early childhood literacy, workforce development and the Return on Investment (ROI) of public libraries. In addition we want to highlight special programs such as the 2020 Census. 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.
 - ✓ **Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof** – Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) will be joining us to share his insight on what's in store for the remaining half of the 133rd General Assembly. We also will be honoring Pres. Obhof with a very special award this year so be sure to be in the room when he speaks to attendees beginning at 9:30 a.m.

- The Ohio Statehouse has special security measures including keycard turnstiles and metal detectors. 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! Don't forget to:
 - ✓ Share the picture on social media and tag your legislator.
 - ✓ Thank your legislator for meeting with you.
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ Remind your legislator to share the picture as well – they love to highlight their meetings with constituents on social media!
 - ✓ Use the hashtag #OHLibrariesTransform

In addition to the above information, the OLC will present a [Legislative Day Preparation Webinar](#) on **Wednesday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m.**

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