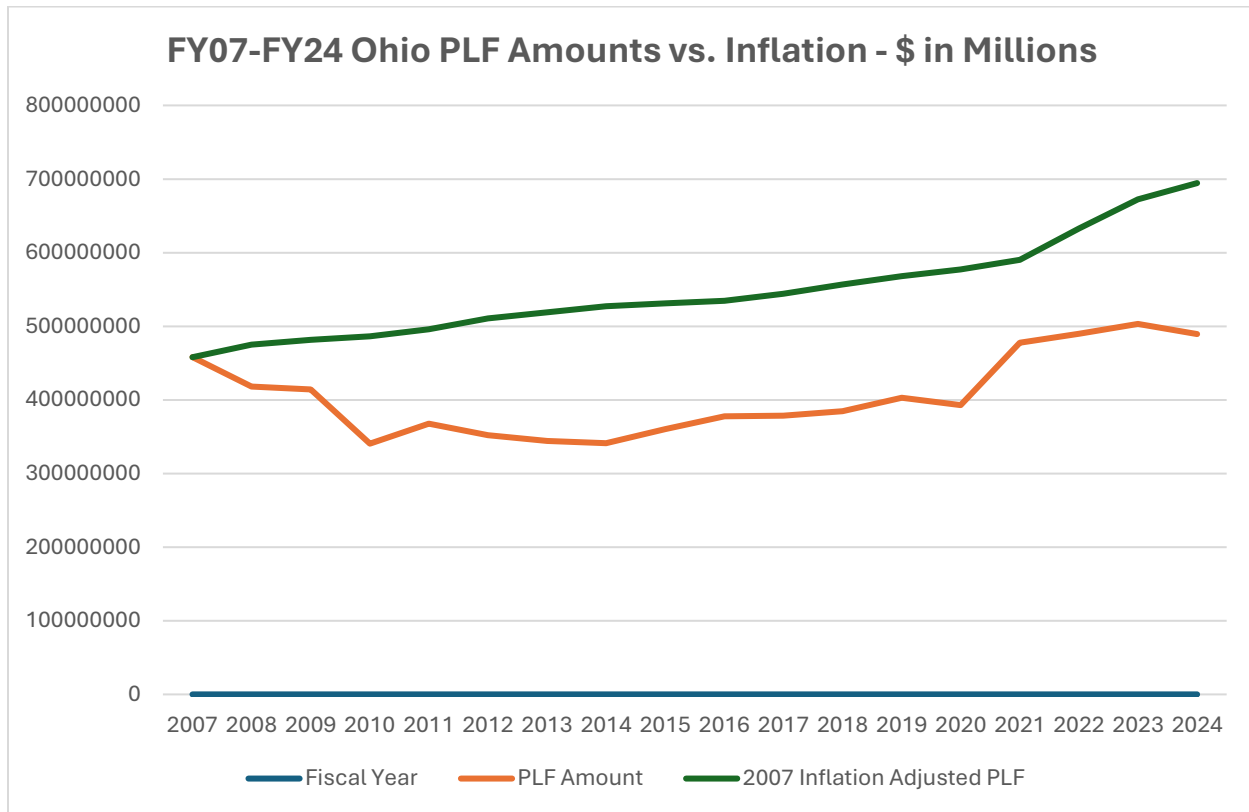


Restore the PLF to 2% to Maintain Critical Funding for Ohio's Public Libraries

- Ohio's public libraries are extremely popular with one of the highest library-use rates in the nation and with 7.4 million cardholders.
- In 2008, the General Assembly established the Public Library Fund (PLF) at 2.22% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Since that time, the percentage has been reduced. The PLF is currently set at 1.7%.
- 20% of Ohio's public library systems rely solely on the PLF for their primary source of funding and DO NOT have a local property tax levy (48 of the 251 library systems).
- 51% of the total funding for Ohio's public libraries comes from the state through the PLF.
- Ohio's public libraries provide a strong Return on Investment. Libraries return \$5 in economic value to Ohioans for every \$1 they spend.
- Currently, Ohio's public libraries have received approximately \$29 million less this year from the state compared to last year.
- Ohio's public libraries are receiving less funding from the state than they received in 2001 (23 years ago).
- The cut in state funding through the PLF is having a devastating impact at a time when costs are rapidly rising, patron usage is increasing and the demand for services at the local level is growing and expanding.
- Public libraries in Ohio have not been able to keep up with the rate of inflation. Since 2007, the rate has increased by 51.6% which means that the \$458 million PLF amount from FY07 would have been \$694.5 by FY24 if it had gone up at the same rate.
- The only primary sources of revenue public libraries have are state funding and/or local property tax levies. Unlike other local governments in Ohio, libraries DO NOT have the authority to raise funds locally through sales or income taxes. Also, libraries DO NOT receive casino/gaming revenue.
- The need and demand for library services and the expectations of Ohioans related to technology, broadband access, digital equity, educational services and workforce development has increased exponentially since 2008, but library funding has not fully recovered from the recession. Now is the time to make Ohio's public libraries a priority during the upcoming state budget process.

Funding for Ohio's public libraries significantly lags inflation.



It's time to restore state funding for Ohio's public libraries.

- Make public libraries a priority in the state budget.
- Restore the PLF to 2%.
- Hold public libraries harmless from any additional, unintended cuts.

495 Metro Place South
Suite 350
Dublin, OH 43017-5399

P: (614) 410-8092
F: (614) 410-8098
www.olc.org