

## Restore Funding for Ohio's Public Libraries

- Public libraries have already been cut.
- Ohio's public libraries are receiving the same funding now as they did 25 years ago.
- 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%.
- The cut in state funding is severely impacting the PLF at a time when costs are escalating, patron usage is increasing, and the demand for local services is growing and expanding.
- 51% of the total funding for Ohio's public libraries comes from the state through the PLF.
- The primary sources of revenue for public libraries are state funding and/or local property tax levies.
- 20% of Ohio's public library systems rely solely on state funding through the PLF and do not have a local property tax levy (48 of the 251 library systems).
- Public libraries in Ohio have not been able to keep up with the rate of inflation. Since 2007, inflation has risen by 51.6%, meaning the \$458 million allocated to the PLF in FY07 should have reached \$694.5 million by FY24 to maintain the same value.
- Ohio's public libraries are extremely popular, with over 7.4 million cardholders and one of the highest library usage rates in the nation.
- Public libraries deliver a significant return on investment, generating \$5 in economic value to Ohioans for every \$1 spent.

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### Public libraries differ from schools and other local government entities in several ways:

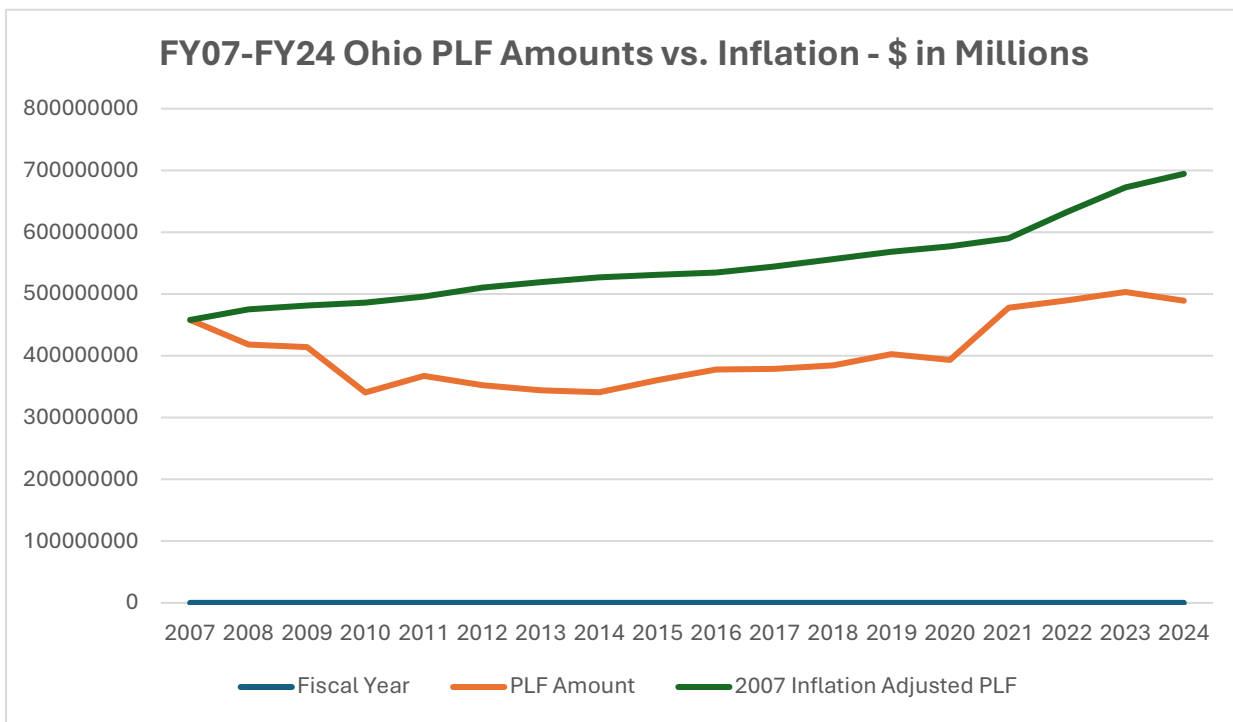
- ❌ No County Sales Tax
  - ❌ No City Income Tax
  - ❌ No Casino Revenue
  - ❌ No Funding for Facilities in Capital Budget
  - ❌ No ARPA Funds
  - ❌ No Inside Millage
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## In 2024, public libraries experienced a \$26.8 million cut.

Year	Calendar Year (CY)	PLF Loss	Fiscal Year (FY)	PLF Loss
2022	\$502.38 Million		\$489.85	
2023	\$510.18 Million		\$503.22	
2024	\$483.3 Million	- \$26.8 Million	\$489.34	- \$13.88 Million

Back in the year 2000, public libraries received \$484.1 million.

## Funding for Ohio’s public libraries significantly lags inflation.



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

- **Ohio’s public libraries have already been cut.**
- **Restore the Public Library Fund (PLF) to 2%.**
- **Prioritize public libraries in the state budget.**