

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.H.1**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 16, 2022**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) recently posted the September 2022 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$43,422,753 — which is about \$2.97 million (+ 7.34%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2021. This brings the statewide PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2022 year-to-date total to \$378,754,176.

State tax collections continue to exceed estimates. According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), overall state tax receipts for the month of August came in \$82.7 million (+ 3.4%) over estimates.

A look at the PLF distribution for the past three years and a link to an Excel spreadsheet listing each county's distribution total for September 2022 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

Knife Law Regulation Changes

The Ohio General Assembly recently made changes to the regulation of knives that may have an impact on governmental public libraries. The two most pertinent acts are Senate Bill (SB) 140, passed last year, and SB 156 passed in June. The key provisions of these two acts as they relate to the carrying of knives can be summarized as follows:

Senate Bill 140 – expressly eliminates knives, razors, and other cutting instruments from the definition of “deadly weapons” under ORC 2923.12, thereby eliminating the broad prohibition that previously applied under that section regarding knowingly carrying a concealed knife that could be used as a deadly weapon.

Senate Bill 156 [effective on September 14, 2022) – makes it a fundamental right for all individuals to own, possess, transport, carry, and keep a knife for purposes of personal protection and other legitimate uses (e.g., hunting and sporting activities), and establishes that such right shall not be subject to any license, permission, restriction, delay or process other than those which are imposed by the U.S. Constitution, the Ohio Constitution or applicable state or federal law.

A Legal & Legislative Update was sent out to all library directors and fiscal officers on Sept. 6th regarding this topic. Additional information will be provided at the board meeting.

Update on ODH Free Rapid Covid Tests

With the return to school and the beginning of the Fall season, OLC has received a few questions from libraries regarding the free covid tests from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). OLC sent out an update to members and continues to work with the governor's testing team. We will advise libraries if there are any changes to the distribution formulas from the state.

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Road Ahead Tour

The Road Ahead Tour is scheduled throughout the month of October. This is an opportunity for library directors to meet with OLC in various locations around Ohio to learn about our overall advocacy strategy as we gear up for next year's biennial budget process. More information will be provided during the board meeting.

"Lame Duck" Session to begin on Nov. 16

Immediately following the November general election, the Ohio legislature will begin the lame duck session which is the period between the election and the end of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. This is the last attempt for legislators to get their bills passed prior to adjourning in December.

The following are the remaining session dates on the legislative calendar:

- Wednesday, Nov. 30: House and Senate
- Thursday, Dec. 1: House
- Wednesday, Dec. 7: Senate
- Wednesday, Dec. 14: House and Senate
- Wednesday, Dec. 21: House and Senate

Luncheon with Gubernatorial Candidate Nan Whaley

On Aug. 26 I had the opportunity to attend a luncheon with Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Nan Whaley. During this event, Whaley discussed her platform and goals for her campaign for governor. A similar event is also being planned with Governor Mike DeWine.

Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine Luncheon with Dolly Parton

On Aug. 9, OLC attended First Lady Fran DeWine's luncheon with special guest Dolly Parton in celebration of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library. Many library directors and Imagination Library affiliates attended the event along with some Ohio legislators.

America 250 – 88 County Engagement Committee

Recently, OLC had the opportunity to participate with a planning committee co-chaired by the County Commissioner's Association and former Governor Ted Strickland to strategize on how Ohio can celebrate this event in every county. The *Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial* (also referred to as *America 250-Ohio*) was formed through [Ohio Revised Code: Section 149.309](#) and announced on March 1, 2022 on Ohio's Statehood Day by Governor Mike DeWine. The commission is charged with preparing the state to participate in the United States of America's 250th anniversary which culminates on July 4, 2026. For more information, click on: [Get to Know America 250-Ohio](#). More will be discussed at the board meeting.