PLF Update
The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the November 2022 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of $39,855,858 – which is $3.55 million (+ 9.78%) above ODT’s original estimate that was issued in July 2021. The PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2022 year-to-date total is $459,159,767 which exceeds ODT’s estimates by $55 million (+ 13.6%).

According to the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM), overall state tax receipts for the month of October came in $111.6 million (or + 5.1%) above estimates. So far, State Fiscal Year 2023 tax collections are up $349.8 million (+ 4%) above 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 November 2022 can be found on the OLC website at http://olc.org/funding/.

Library Levy Results
Ohioans continue to express their support for public libraries at the polls. The unofficial results from Tuesday’s election indicate that 18 out of the 19 public library ballot issues were approved. The successful library ballot issues included 13 renewals; two additional/new; two replacements; and one renewal with an increase. The average voter approval rating was 66 percent.

The one loss was extremely close by coming up 16 votes short. However, local officials have indicated there are 184 provisional ballots and 212 absentee ballots still to be counted. OLC will continue to monitor the election results and post an update once the final results are certified.

Election Results
Republicans continue to have solid control at all three branches of government following the 2022 Ohio General Election. Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted defeated former City of Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. Additionally, Republicans went on to sweep all of Ohio’s Statewide offices including the highly contested U.S. Senate race where J.D. Vance defeated Tim Ryan by almost 7%.

In the Ohio House, Republicans now hold a 68-31 supermajority. Likewise, the Ohio Senate Republicans gained an additional seat bringing the Republican majority to 26-7. This supermajority hasn’t been achieved since 1951. At the congressional level, Democrats were able to flip one seat held by Congressman Steve Chabot.

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Lastly, with the inclusion of partisan affiliation for candidates running for the Ohio Supreme Court, all three republican candidates were successful showing similar vote percentages as the other statewide candidate winners.

The following link contains additional details on the election results. https://olc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Election-Results.pdf. More will be discussed during the board meeting.

Road Ahead Tour
Friday, Oct. 28 was the final stop on the OLC "Road Ahead" Tour. However, the advocacy efforts on behalf of Ohio’s public libraries are only just beginning. Throughout the month of October, the OLC "Road Ahead" Tour made 13 stops around the state, meeting with library leadership, to discuss our strategy in advocating for library funding.

Between now and the beginning of the 135th Ohio General Assembly, OLC is encouraging library directors to reach out to their state representatives and senators. This is the time to educate, or re-educate, decision-makers on the partnership we have with the state of Ohio through the Public Library Fund. We are encouraging libraries to invite their legislators into their library buildings and show them all the great services being offered to your communities.

More will be discussed at the board meeting on OLC’s advocacy strategy for the next General Assembly.

“Lame Duck” Session
This week the Ohio legislature began the lame duck session which is the period between the General 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 at the end of 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
- More will be discussed during the board meeting.