

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 15, 2023**

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 2023 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$45,969,148 – which is \$125,201 or -0.27% below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2022; and \$2,725,843 or +6.3% above ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2022. So, as you can see, the PLF has rebounded from last month. The PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2023 year-to-date total is \$383,655,065.

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 2023 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

Meeting with Ohio Department of Taxation

OLC along with other organizations representing local governments participated in a meeting with the Ohio Department of Taxation to discuss the tax provisions contained in the state budget (HB 33).

Ohio Auditor of State Releases Levy Guidance FAQ

The Auditor of State (AOS) recently released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and best practice recommendations to help provide guidance to school districts and other political subdivisions, including libraries, with what the AOS considers to be permitted and not permitted under Section 9.03 of the Ohio Revised Code relative to levy and bond issues campaigns. The AOS has been working on this FAQ for well over a year and OLC has been working with them, offering feedback on several drafts since the process originally started. In fact, the AOS utilized our Ballot Issues Workshop training materials to assist in developing their document. In addition, while attending the OLC Library Fiscal Officer CPIM Conference this past spring, Auditor Keith Faber applauded OLC's efforts to ensure that library campaigns and activities are conducted in a manner permitted under Ohio law. While the final FAQ is not perfect, it is much better than the original draft that was originally presented to OLC and others for feedback.

It is important to note that these are not new laws, just the AOS's interpretation and recommendations for "best practices" under existing law. Also, even though the FAQ expressly names school districts as the intended audience, it would have application to public libraries. However, there are some differences specifically for public libraries.

The FAQs can be accessed via the following link.

https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/docs/Ohio_Auditor_of_State_Levy_FAQs_Aug_2023.pdf

5.H.1: Government and Legal Services Report

OLC staff will be addressing the new Levy FAQ at the “Legal Issues Affecting Your Library: Hot Topics” session at the OLC Convention & Expo next month on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 250. Also, the new Levy FAQ will be covered in OLC’s upcoming Ballot Issues Workshop in November.

Library Card Sign Up Month

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. After all, we know a library card is the most important school supply! Your library can help spread the word by using the free tools on the [ALA website](#). Additional graphics are available at ilovelibraries.org.

The OLC sent a memo to members of the Ohio General Assembly about how they can help us promote Library Card Sign-up Month in their districts. A copy of the memo, which includes the latest issue of [What's Happening in Ohio's Public Libraries](#), is available on the [OLC website](#).

Solar Eclipse Task Force Update

April 8, 2024, will be here before we know it. OLC is an active participant on the Solar Eclipse Planning Task Force that has been meeting bimonthly to collaborate with other organizations and state agencies as Ohio prepares for this special event. Libraries looking for solar eclipse glasses can use the following link. <http://bit.ly/glassesforlibraries> As additional resources become available, we’ll be sure to share.