

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.G.1**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 20, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the September 2024 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$44,451,050 – which is \$1.05 million (or + 2.43%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2023; and \$1.12 million (or + 2.58%) above ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2023. As indicated in previous communications, OLC is monitoring state revenues, and will have more information soon as OBM updates their FY 2025 state revenue estimates. Even though the September PLF distribution slightly exceeded estimates, the overall PLF year-to-date is still well below 2023 funding.

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 2024 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

ODT Issues Initial CY 25 PLF Certification

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted its initial county-by-county certifications for the Public Library Fund (PLF) for calendar year (CY) 2025.

[PDF of Each County's Total Estimated Entitlement](#)

[Excel Spreadsheet with the Monthly Estimates for Each County](#)

Please read the entitlement letter for your county carefully. The CY 2025 entitlement estimates are based on the PLF percentage being set at 1.7% of all state General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax resources. Your county's share was determined pursuant to the formula contained in ORC 5747.46 and 5747.47. Additionally, the displayed amounts are net of transfers to the Library for the Blind and the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN).

ODT's entitlement estimates include the following disclaimer:

“Note that the above figures are estimates, reflecting the current best projection of state tax revenues during Calendar Year 2025. Because of the inherent difficulty in projecting state tax revenues relatively far in advance, please remember that actual calendar year 2025 distributions to your county's undivided local government fund will vary from the above estimate by an unknown degree.”

As required by law, ODT's estimates will be updated again in December 2024.

This is a great opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of statewide advocacy for the PLF and that next year will be an extremely important state budget year! Watch for more details soon on our PLF advocacy efforts and the Road Ahead Tour.

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Ohio General Assembly

The Ohio General Assembly is not expected to return until after the November General Election. Once they return, the “lame-duck” session begins. At this point, the Senate has scheduled 5 voting session dates. The House has not published a schedule yet but it’s likely they will have a similar schedule. That means there could be a lot of moving parts to keep track of prior to the General Assembly adjourning. More will be discussed at the board meeting.

Road Ahead Tour Begins

Although the proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 won’t be officially introduced at the Statehouse until February of 2025, conversations about the budget have already begun. To prepare library directors for the upcoming state budget deliberations, we will be hosting meetings around the state during September and October and sharing information about OLC’s advocacy efforts and tools for libraries to utilize as we continue to fight for funding at the state level. These meetings are important so libraries can speak with one strong voice at the Statehouse.

Thank you to the members of the OLC's [Legislative Network](#) for coordinating the stops on the [Road Ahead Tour](#). All library directors are encouraged to attend the meeting in their Ohio Senate District.