
June 22, 2009

Talking Points

In response to Governor Strickland's Proposed Cuts in Public Library Funding

The Ohio Library Council (OLC) and Ohio's public libraries condemn a proposal by Governor Ted Strickland to balance the state's budget by raiding public library funding.

Gov. Strickland's proposed drastic cuts to Ohio's public library funding will force the closure of many of Ohio's public libraries and branches in neighborhoods and communities in every county in the state.

Gov. Strickland's plan would cut the state's Public Library Fund far beyond the relative reductions in state revenues, and is *more than double* the reductions projected by the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Analysis shows that the Strickland budget cuts would reduce library funding by at least 47% in fiscal year 2010 and 45% in fiscal year 2011 as compared to the fiscal year 2008 distributions.

Libraries have been slashing their budgets for months to find ways to maintain library services with a 20% reduction in state dollars. The reductions proposed by Gov. Strickland will force some libraries to close completely, close branches, and/or drastically cut hours and services – beginning July 1."

Since January 2009, public libraries have lost 20% of their state revenue. Gov. Strickland's proposed 30% reduction in addition to that loss.

The Governor's proposed funding cuts come at a time when Ohio's public libraries are experiencing unprecedented increases in demand for services. In every community throughout the state, Ohioans are turning to their public libraries for free high speed Internet to access information on employment opportunities, children and teens are beginning summer reading programs, and people of all ages are turning to the library for information and education.

Ohioans should contact the Governor's office to express their opposition to his proposal to cut library funding, and to urge their legislators to reject the Governor's plan.

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