

FAQs about Library Funding

1. How are public libraries funded by the state of Ohio?

As of July 1, 2025, Ohio's public libraries receive funding from the Public Library Fund (PLF) through a line-item appropriation established in the state biennial budget (House Bill 96). Previously, the PLF received 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund.

2. Why are public libraries receiving less money from the state?

Due to the state legislature's change in how public libraries are funded, the overall funding allocated to the PLF has decreased. The General Assembly set the line-item appropriation for the PLF at \$490 million in FY26 and \$500 million in FY27. In addition, they added language to fund other state agencies and entities from the PLF, further reducing funding to public libraries by an additional \$10.3 million. As a result, libraries are receiving approximately \$479 million in FY26, a decrease from \$504 million in FY25.

3. Do all of Ohio's public libraries have a local property tax levy?

No, 48 public library systems do not have a local property tax levy and rely on state funding through the PLF as their primary source of funding for day-to-day operations and providing services to their communities.

4. How are public libraries different from schools and other local governments?

Ohio's public libraries are separate political subdivisions like our local government partners; however public libraries do not have taxing authority. In addition, libraries do not benefit from a county sales tax, city income tax, or school district income tax.

5. Do public libraries receive local revenue from Ohio's casinos and marijuana tax revenue?

No, while casinos and marijuana taxes generate tax revenue for counties, cities, and school districts, libraries are excluded from these specific revenue streams.

6. How much funding for public libraries comes from the state?

Collectively, 48% of the total funding for Ohio's public libraries comes from the state through the PLF. As a result, local property taxes now make up more than half of library funding in Ohio.