

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E.1**

MEETING DATE: **July 17, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), state tax receipts for the month of June came in at \$306.5 million (or +11.3%) above estimate. Preliminary data shows that overall state revenues for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 were \$1.8 billion (or +6.1%) overestimates.

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the first Public Library Fund (PLF) monthly distribution for FY 2027. The July 2026 PLF distribution is \$40,251,502 – consistent with ODT's original estimate issued in July 2025 and ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2025. The PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2026 year-to-date total is \$280,303,983.

As a reminder, the PLF is now a line-item appropriation and no longer a percentage of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) monthly tax receipts. The July distribution is the first distribution for FY 2027, but monthly distributions to the county level will change slightly each month. Even though the line-item appropriation for the PLF in FY 2027 is \$500 million, HB 96 included additional cash transfers from the PLF for the State Library of Ohio, OPLIN, Library for the Blind, the Ohioana Library Association and the Regional Library Systems.

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 July 2026 can be found on the [OLC website](#).

ODT Posts Final CY 2026 PLF Certification Update

ODT issued their final [estimates](#) for the Public Library Fund (PLF) distributions for each county for Calendar Year 2026 (CY 2026).

Overall, ODT is now estimating the total CY 2026 PLF distribution will be \$484,704,271, which is consistent with the original ODT certification issued in July 2025. As a reminder, the PLF is no longer a percentage of the state's GRF. HB 96 changed the PLF to a line-item appropriation. In addition, other state agencies and entities are now funded through the PLF and deducted first before the PLF distributions to public libraries. As indicated in ODT's certification estimates, transfers to the Library for the Blind, OPLIN, the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association and the Regional Library Systems are deducted prior to the PLF distributions to the county level.

ODT Links:

[ODT's monthly distribution to each county \(Excel file & PLF tab\)](#)

[ODT's county-by-county certification estimates distributed to county auditors \(PDF\)](#)

Please read the certification letter for your county entitlement carefully. These are county-by-county estimates and not detailed down to the library system or building level. As you

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know, each county has a different distribution formula. Therefore, neither OLC nor the ODT can issue estimates for each individual library system.

As a reminder, by statute, ODT is required to provide an initial certification in July for the following calendar year. That certification is then updated in December, and a final update is required in June of the actual calendar year. Therefore, the final statutorily required certification for CY 2026 was just provided and no further updates are planned by ODT for the CY 2026 estimates. The next certification issued by ODT will be in July 2026 for CY 2027.

FY 2027 Cash Transfers from the PLF

OPLIN: \$3,689,788

Library for the Blind: \$1,274,194

Ohioana Library Association: \$310,516

Regional Library Systems: \$494,000

State Library of Ohio: \$4,527,474

OBM recently shared an updated [schedule](#) of the cash transfers for FY 2027. These deductions and [transfers](#) from the PLF are made prior to the PLF distributions to public libraries. After the cash transfers are deducted, the actual PLF amount distributed to public libraries will be \$489,704,028.

HB 472 -Voter ID Legislation Vetoed

Governor Mike DeWine vetoed HB 472, which would have required most absentee voters to provide a photo ID. The legislation also included provisions requiring the Secretary of State, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, county boards of elections, and public libraries to provide copies of photo IDs for voting purposes at no cost. Please note that since 2021, public libraries are already required to provide copies of photo IDs upon request. In his veto statement, DeWine noted that the bill would create "a new burden" for absentee voters and stated that current election laws are functioning effectively. It is currently unknown if the House and Senate will convene a special session to attempt a veto override.

Statehouse Update Webinar: Mid-Year Legislative Review and Outlook

OLC hosted a [Statehouse Update Webinar](#) on Tuesday, July 14 at 10 a.m. The session provided an overview of legislative activity during the first half of the year and offered insight into issues expected to shape the remainder of the 136th Ohio General Assembly. More will be discussed during the board meeting.

OLC Library Legislative Day 2027

Save the Date – Next year's Library Legislative Day will take place on Wednesday, May 19, 2027.