

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

MEETING DATE: **May 15, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the May 2026 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$40,419,668 – which is \$393,641 (or +0.98%) more than ODT’s original estimate that was issued in July 2025 and ODT’s updated estimate issued in December 2025 that went unchanged.

According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the state’s General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts for April 2026 came in \$338.9 million or 13.3% above estimate. This means the total GRF tax receipts to-date for FY 2026 are exceeding estimates by \$1.16 billion or 4.9%.

The final PLF distribution for the current fiscal year will be posted and distributed at the beginning of June. Once the final distribution is posted, OLC will provide a complete analysis and comparison of the PLF as a line-item appropriation vs a percentage of the GRF for FY 2026. This will be important as we begin our preparations for the next state budget.

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

Statehouse Update

The Legislature has been on recess for most of April during the lead-up to the Primary Election. Moving forward, both the House and Senate plan to meet throughout May and into June.

Currently, the last session day is scheduled for June 10, with "if needed" dates set for June 17 and June 24 before the summer break. Over the next several weeks, the primary focus will be on the Capital Budget. More will be discussed at the board meeting.

Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Property Taxes

On April 23 the group seeking to eliminate property taxes announced it has collected 305,000 signatures toward its goal. To place the issue on the November 2026 ballot, a minimum of 413,488 valid signatures must be filed by July 1. While the announcement has generated headlines, it does not fundamentally change our public education efforts. In fact, it is more important than ever that we share factual information.

OLC is aware of misinformation circulating about library funding. It is critical that we continue to share clear and accurate facts, such as:

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- There is no obligation in Ohio's Constitution to fund public libraries.
- Public libraries account for only 2.5% of all property taxes collected statewide.

These points are essential in helping Ohioans understand both the limited share libraries receive and the potential impact of changes to local funding structures.

Recent reporting underscores the status of the petition drive and the broader conversation taking place across the state:

- [Face the State segment](#) (aired April 26, beginning at the 1:25 mark)
- [Editorial: Anti-property tax idea, don't sign on](#) (Toledo Blade, 4/23/26)
- [Ohio anti-property tax group short of signature goal, vows to continue](#) (Columbus Dispatch, 4/23/26)
- [Ohio property tax repeal campaign says it's halfway to ballot goal](#) (Plain Dealer, 4/23/26)
- [Statement from Ohioans to Protect Public Services](#) (issued to media 4/23/26)

OLC encourages members to continue using the [Public Libraries and Property Taxes Fact Sheet](#) and materials from [Ohioans to Protect Public Services](#) to support consistent, factual messaging. More will be discussed at the Board Meeting.

Post Primary - Impact Ohio Event

We recently attended a post-election conference featuring party chairs, strategists, and legislative leadership. Both parties say they are energized and remain focused on the upcoming November general election.

During one session, legislative leaders highlighted the following priorities:

- House Republicans: Assistant Majority Floor Leader Adam Bird noted the Capital Budget as the primary focus before summer recess, along with property tax reform, healthcare, election integrity, and finances.
- House Democrats: Minority Leader Dani Isaacsohn highlighted plans to address rising costs in healthcare, childcare, energy, and housing.
- Senate Republicans: Majority Whip George Lang remains focused on business issues, tax reductions, and property tax reform.
- Senate Democrats: Assistant Minority Whip Beth Liston emphasized policies regarding childcare, K-12 schools, and healthcare.

137th Ohio General Assembly Senate President

In the race to become the next Senate President, Senator Jerry Cirino has formally ended his bid, giving Senator Bill Reineke a clearer path to succeed President Rob McColley next year. Senator Cirino also indicated he is unlikely to serve as Senate Finance Chair next year.

Library Ballot Issues Workshop July 9

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Is your library considering going on the local ballot with a new levy, renewing a levy, or modifying a levy that's been in place? Register for OLC's Ballot Issues Workshop which will be hosted virtually on July 9. This workshop will provide you with the information you need as you prepare for your ballot initiative.

OLC Library Legislative Day 2027

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