

**Ohio Library Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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ITEM NO.: **5.E.3**

MEETING DATE: **July 18, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Communications Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Angie Jacobsen**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

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State Budget

The OLC website was updated at each stage of the state budget process, including links to OLC's testimony and updated advocacy materials such as the [Talking Points for the Ohio Senate](#) and [Talking Points for the Conference Committee](#).

On June 25, OLC issued a [press release](#) expressing serious concerns about the state budget. The release explained the \$25 million cut to the Public Library Fund and a provision in House Bill 96 that would require public libraries to segregate materials related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, guaranteeing they are not visible to anyone under 18. The OLC's statement generated significant media coverage across the state, with multiple news outlets highlighting the potential impact on public libraries and patrons. OLC staff conducted follow-up interviews and provided additional information to reporters to ensure accurate coverage and to amplify the message.

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio libraries face funding crisis after state budget cuts](#)

WSYX Channel 6 Columbus, June 26, 2025

[Ohio libraries call on DeWine to veto budget provision to move books on gender, identity](#)

Columbus Dispatch, June 27, 2025

[Ohio libraries concerned about funding taken out, policy on sensitive media added into budget](#)

The Statehouse News Bureau, June 27, 2025

[Ohio libraries may be required to remove items on sexual orientation from kid's sections](#)

Columbus Dispatch, June 25, 2025

[Ohio libraries face challenge enforcing new state rules impacting gender identity material](#)

WSYX Channel 6 Columbus, June 27, 2025

On July 1, OLC issued another [press release](#) after Governor DeWine vetoed the provision in the state budget that would require libraries to segregate materials. The release thanked the governor and reinforced OLC's position that Ohio's public libraries already have strong collection development policies in place. The release also acknowledged and thanked the thousands of Ohioans who contacted the Governor's Office in support of public libraries. The announcement received positive media attention and helped strengthen OLC's advocacy efforts.

Sample media coverage:

[Ohio libraries celebrate veto of budget measure censoring materials](#)

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Ohio Capital Journal, July 1, 2025

['We are thrilled': Libraries react to veto of library material restrictions in Ohio budget](#)  
WFMJ Channel 21 Youngstown, July 2, 2025

[New Ohio budget will affect public library funding](#)  
Chillicothe Gazette, July 3, 2025

[Local libraries face potential funding instability with the new two-year state budget](#)  
WOUB Public Media, July 7, 2025

[Ohio's new state budget brings an estimated \\$25M cut to public libraries, prompting concern over services](#)  
WKYC Cleveland, July 8, 2025

### Convention and Expo

A promotional save-the-date postcard will be sent at the end of July. Articles about keynote speakers have begun to appear in *Access* and the OLC website. Development of the Convention and Expo webpage and OLC app are underway. Registration for the Convention will open in September. In addition, exhibitor information and a live Exhibit Hall map were added to the OLC website.

### Division/Committee Projects

- Information on voting for OLC Leadership was included in *Access*, *This Week* and on the OLC website.
- The 2025 Awards and Honors program was featured weekly in *Access*. The deadline for submissions was extended to May 30.
- A call for the Citizen of the Year award was included in *This Week* and *Access*.
- The Teen Services Division and the Marketing and PR Division put out a call for Action Council members.
- Certified Public Librarian and Certified Public Library Staff certification holders (new and renewals) were featured in *Access* and on the OLC website.
- Information on dues proration was shared in *Access* and on the OLC website.

### Website

The most popular pages on the OLC website over the past two months are:

1. Jobs
2. OLC Raises Alarm Over State Budget Cuts and Provision Segregating Materials
3. Take Action – Contact the Governor
4. State Budget
5. OLC Applauds Governor DeWine's Veto Protecting Libraries and Families
6. Thank you - Thank you for standing up for Ohio's public libraries
7. OLC Calendar
8. Convention and Expo
9. Library Funding/PLF
10. 2025 OLC Elections Start June 30