

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AGENDA

March 13, 2026
OLC Offices
10:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (#)*
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Jan. 16, 2026 – Regular Meeting (#)*
3. 2026 OLC Board Orientation
 - A. OLC Board of Directors – Roles and Responsibilities
(Jason Elvers, OLC Legal Counsel; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP)
 - B. OLC Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy (#)
4. Reports for Action
 - A. Financial Report: Year-End – 2025 (#)*
 - B. Nominating Committee Appointment (#)*
 - C. Andrew Carnegie Award (#)*
 - D. Endorsement – Aimee Fifarek, Candidate PLA President-Elect (#)*
 - E. Request for Support of the 2031 ACRL Conference in Columbus (#)*
5. Reports for Discussion
 - A. OLC Board of Directors Elections – 2026 (#)
 - B. OLC Strategic Planning (#)
 - C. OLC Public Relations Campaign/Polling (#)
6. Reports for Information
 - A. ALA Councilor Report (#)
 - B. State Library of Ohio Report (#)
 - C. OPLIN Report (#)
 - D. Executive Director’s Report (#)
 - E. Staff Reports
 1. Government and Legal Services Report (#)
 2. Professional Development Report (#)
 3. Communications Report (#)
 4. Membership Services Report (#)
7. Announcements – Next Meeting: May 15 – OLC Office
8. Adjournment

(#) Report included in background packet

* Action Item

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom
January 16, 2026
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT Kathy Bach, Cincinnati
Monica Baughman, Worthington
Travis Bautz, Middletown
Julianne Bedel, Medina
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Cleveland Heights
Sandra Hedlund Tunnell, Ashland
Mary Ellen Icaza, Canton
Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula
Elizabeth Muether, Celina
Bernie Rochford, Akron
Stacey Russell, Zanesville
William Rutger, Sandusky
Susan Titkemeier, Marion

GUESTS Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio
Nick Tepe, ALA Councilor
Don Yarman, OPLIN

STAFF Michelle Francis, Executive Director
Jeanine D'Andrea, Director, Membership Services
Angie Jacobsen, Director, Communications
Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services
Laurie Miller, Director, Professional Development
Jay Smith, Director, Government and Legal Services

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Icaza at 10:041 a.m. Icaza welcomed incoming Board members, Cindy Lombardo, Peninsula; and Susan Titkemeier, Marion Public Library to their first official meeting as OLC Board members. They gave a brief introduction. Icaza noted that Jason Elvers, OLC's Legal Counsel from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, will be joining us at the March Board meeting for the Board's orientation on fiduciary responsibilities and conflicts of interest. The March meeting will be in-person at the OLC Office.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DENERO-AKROYD MOVED AND ROCHFORD SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BAUGHMAN MOVED AND MUETHER SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2025 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 12 YEA VOTES: 1 ABSTENTION. (Lombardo)

DENERO AKROYD MOVED AND BAUTZ SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2025 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 12 YEA VOTES: 1 ABSTENTION (Lombardo)

BAUTZ MOVED AND BACH SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2025 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 12 YEA VOTES: 1 ABSTENTION. (Lombardo)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
2026

The Executive Committee submitted the following nominations for the 2026 officers:

William Rutger, Vice Chair of the Board/Chair-Elect
Travis Bautz, Secretary-Treasurer

No other nominations were received. ROCHFORD MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 OFFICERS WERE APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION.

Icaza congratulated Rutger and Bautz on their elections and thanked them for accepting their leadership roles in the organization. Icaza then turned the meeting over to Stacey Russell as the 2026 Chair of the Board.

Icaza thanked the Board and noted that OLC as an organization means a lot to her. Russell thanked Icaza for her service as Chair of the OLC Board of Directors in 2025. A formal presentation will take place at the March Board meeting. Russell thanked the Board and looks forward to working with other Board members and OLC.

Francis reported a press release will be going out announcing the new officers.

FINANCIAL REPORT
MONTH-END NOV 2025

Francis presented the Financial Report-Month-End Nov. 2025.

Revenue.

Dues. Institutional Membership is over budget due to Plain City joining. Individual Membership is under budget due to decrease in personal membership.

Continuing Education. The Convention and Expo is over budget due to timing of accrual. Workshops are under budget due to low attendance.

Contract Income. Is over budget due to the one-time Amazon rebate.

Other Income. Interest and Dividends is over budget due to returns on short-term investments. Workers' Compensation is under budget due to timing of payment. Unrealized Gain/(Loss) is over budget due to returns on long-term investments. JobLine is under budget due to decrease in non-member postings. Management and Consulting is under budget due to decrease in background checks.

Expenses.

Salaries and Benefits.

Retirement is under budget due to timing of plan contributions. Health Insurance is under budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments. Payroll Taxes are under budget.

Consultants and Contractors. Speaker Honoraria is under budget due to timing of payments. Legal Services are under budget due to delayed invoicing. Expo Contractors are over budget due to timing of payments.

Supplies and Resources. Computer Software/Supplies are under budget.

Communications. Postage is under budget due to fewer mailings.

Printing and Design. Printing is under budget due to timing of payments. Copying is under budget.

Maintenance and Equipment. Equipment rental is over budget due to coding.

Travel and Meals. Board is under budget due to fewer reimbursements. Committees and Divisions are under budget due to reduced request for reimbursement. Presenters is under budget due to timing of reimbursements.

Management Expenses. Bank services are over budget. Investment fees are over budget. Organization Memberships is under budget. Staff Development and Memberships are under budget due to timing. Catering and Other Meals over budget due to RRHOF Reception.

The net change in assets is under budget by 178,748.

LOMBARDO MOVED AND ICAZA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT: MONTH-END – NOVEMBER 2025 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC BOARD
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

BEDEL MOVED AND BACH SECONDED ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2026 OLC BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLC BOARD LIAISONS
ASSIGNMENTS

BAUGHMAN MOVED AND DENERO-AKROYD SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE OLC BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Francis thanked the Finance Committee who met via Zoom on Jan. 12 to review the proposed operating budget for 2026. The Committee is recommending the following budget.

REVENUE:

Dues: \$1,263,238

Institutional: \$1,054,438 – based on the current dues formula of 0.27% of 2025 PLF plus 0.055% of 2025 property tax receipts; assumes retention of all 249 Institutional-Member libraries from 2025; calculation based upon county auditor reports received to date that show an average increase in PLF funding in 2025 of about 2.09% as compared to 2024; local property tax revenue projected to be relatively the same as 2024. This includes the formula cap of \$18,000.

Other Institutions: \$7,000 – includes membership dues for Associate Members and Other Institutions; assumes no increase in \$450 Associate Membership dues (increased by \$50 in 2022); assumes no increase in \$275 Other Institutional dues category (increased by \$25 in 2022).

Personal: \$199,800 – based on individual membership revenue in 2025. Individual/personal membership dues are based on salary and self-reported. The salary range bands and amounts have not been updated since 2010.

Friends: \$2,000 – projections based upon past retention and membership trends. (This also includes Foundations)

Publications: \$250

Sales: \$250 – projections based on sale of hard-copy publications in 2025 (e.g., *Trustees Handbook*, *Library Accounting Handbook*, etc.). Free electronic copies are available in the Member Info Hub to OLC members.

Continuing Education: \$493,825

Legislative Day: \$15,000 – projections based on a registration fee of \$75 per person for 200 attendees to cover cost of breakfast, space rental, AV equipment, etc.

Convention and Expo: \$330,075 – projects attendance based on past events and is based on signed contracts with Kalahari in Sandusky; proposes \$25 increase in registration fee across the board; \$200 increase in exhibit booth rental to align with other state associations and \$15 increase for luncheons to cover substantial increase in costs as compared to previous years. Rates are still comparable/lower than other state association conferences.

Planning & Leadership Conference: \$0 – assumes a virtual event free to OLC volunteers based on feedback and financial constraints.

Professional Development: \$148,750 – includes a small increase in registration fees to cover the increase in costs to OLC. No increase in certification fees (increased by \$15 in 2025 to cover costs for materials and postage). Includes revenue for hybrid events (Library Trustees, New Directors, Ballot Issues Workshops, Library Fiscal Officer 102, Outreach Retreat); in-person events (CPIM, Trustee Dinners/Lunch); includes revenue for one stand-alone subject-specific conference and maintains discounted registration for event planning committee members and library speakers at events. Proposes suspending Individual Membership requirement for discount membership rate for stand-alone conference on PL Safety & Security.

Contract Income: \$6,000

Sourcing Office/Equalis Group: \$6,000 – projects revenues totals based upon past performance and increasing use of services. Does not include Amazon Business Rebate.

Other Income: \$68,200

Interest on Short-Term Investments: \$35,000 – projects revenues totals based upon past performance.

Workers' Comp Group Rating: \$31,500 – projects revenue based upon past performance and premium changes.

Unrealized Gain/Loss on Long-Term Investments: \$0 – difficult to project based upon market volatility; conservative estimate on performance of long-term investments.

Management/Consulting Services: \$700 – includes fees charged to libraries for employee background checks.

JobLine: \$1,000 – revenue projection based upon anticipated number of job openings/postings by non-member libraries (no charge for member-library postings).

TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE: \$ 1,831,513

EXPENSES:

Salary and Benefits: \$1,040,864

Staff Salaries: \$779,726 – includes an average increase of approximately 3.5% in staff compensation as compared to 2025 (effective March 2026); includes increase in Executive Director's compensation as approved by the Board in December 2025. Includes bonus pool equal to 1.5% of salary line-item.

Retirement Contribution: \$77,973 – maintains OLC's contribution to employees' 401(k) plan at 10% of salary for all qualifying employees.

Health Insurance: \$119,134 – includes health, dental, and vision insurance for qualifying employees and dependents; assumes retention of the OLC's high-deductible health insurance plan and health savings account for employees; includes the possibility of 20% increase in health insurance premiums for 2026; and no increase in dental or vision premiums. Also includes the \$1,000 HSA contribution for each participating employee. At this time, four employees utilize OLC's health insurance, and five employees utilize dental and vision insurance.

Payroll Taxes (FICA, FUTA, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment): \$59,571 – reflects amount based on staff compensation totals.

LTD and Life Insurance: \$4,461 – anticipates no increase in premiums for 2026 for all qualifying full-time employees.

Consultants/Contractors: \$333,925

Auditor: \$8,250 – assumes small increase in audit fees from 2025.

Speaker Honoraria: \$32,000 – includes anticipated costs for “non-library” speakers at Convention and Expo.

Legal Services: \$50,000 – based upon actual expenses in 2025 and projected utilization in 2026 on sample policies.

Convention and Expo Contractors: \$55,950 – reflects projected cost of Convention and Expo pipe and drape (may vary depending upon number of exhibitors) and security; and Experient contract.

Consultants/Contractors: \$187,725 – includes administrative costs for payroll and 401(k) plan; Expedient Technology Solutions data backup; strategic planning consultant; public relations campaign consultant and polling; Northway Advisors consulting; and library funding/tax revenue analytics with Howard Fleeter and Associates.

Supplies and Resource Materials: \$84,459

Supplies: \$22,875 – includes supplies for Legislative Day, awards, membership services librarian and staff certifications, publications, committees, divisions, and general overhead.

Subscriptions and Resource Materials: \$6,550 – includes subscriptions to publications; fees for news clipping services and Ohio newspaper subscriptions; includes the Hannah Report and Complete Statehouse subscription.

Computer Software/Supplies: \$55,034 – includes fees for broadcast e-mail (Constant Contact), webinar software (Zoom), survey software (Alchemer/Survey Gizmo), OLC app (Results at Hand), MS Office/Teams, Creative Cloud/Adobe, Basecamp, election software (Election Runner), association management

software and new learning management software (GrowthZone), new firewall, new printers; and new accounting software/migration.

Communications: \$19,106

Telephone – Local/LD/Mobile: \$3,490 – costs for local/long distance service and staff mobile device charges.

Postage: \$4,250 – includes costs for mailings to members, C&E postcard mailing, certifications, hard copy publications, general business postage, etc.

Mailing Service: \$0 – bulk mailing for C&E postcard is no longer needed.

Courier Service: \$50 – includes general business expenses for UPS, FedEx, etc.; based on utilization in 2025.

Internet: \$11,316 – includes broadband service for the office (Spectrum) and hot spots (T-Mobile).

Printing and Design: \$12,515

Printing: \$7,100 – includes cost of regular printed materials (e.g., stationery, envelopes, etc.) and promotional materials, nominations, C&E postcard, C&E on-site guide, etc.

Design: \$2,600 – includes design costs for C&E on-site guide.

Copying: \$2,815 – reflects costs for materials produced in-house.

Maintenance and Equipment: \$63,760

Equipment Rental: \$62,460 – includes office copier and postage machine; AV for C&E, stand-alone conference, Legislative Day, Trustee Dinners and other professional development off-site.

Equipment Maintenance: \$1,300 – includes service on postage machine and office telecom equipment (Garber).

Software Support: \$0 – shift to new accounting software eliminates need for outside support and licensure expenses for accounting software.

Space Rental: \$141,869

Office Space: \$129,219 – includes per-square-foot rental fees for office and meeting room space at 495 Metro Place South.

Convention and Expo: \$5,000 – expresses rental fees for Kalahari in Sandusky. Rental is comp with 650 or more overnight rooms.

Workshops/Meetings: \$7,650 – includes space rental fees for CPIM conference, Legislative Day, stand-alone conference and other professional development events.

Travel: \$41,150

Board: \$5,000 – includes possible mileage reimbursement for attendees at OLC Board meetings, expenses for ALA Councilor to register/attend Annual Conference (Chicago).

Staff: \$28,650 – includes staff reimbursement for mileage, hotel and meals for business-related travel, including local and out-of-town meetings, attendance at

professional development events, etc.; reflects increase in IRS allowable reimbursement to \$0.725 per mile for use of personal cars for business travel. Includes travel for C&E at Kalahari and ALA Annual.

Committees and Divisions: \$0 – maintains the option of one in-person meeting for OLC Committees and Division Action Councils, but eliminates travel reimbursement for volunteers attending in-person meetings based on previous use and is consistent with other state associations. Recognizes OLC's use and cost savings with virtual meetings.

Presenters: \$7,500 – includes travel and accommodations for C&E presenters, etc.; maintains current mileage reimbursement at \$0.345 per mile for library presenters.

Management Expenses: \$192,097

Bank Services and Investment Fees: \$22,600 – includes fees for commercial banking, credit card services, and long-term investment management; based upon actual costs in 2025.

Depreciation Replacement: \$14,878 – reflects depreciation on value of current and new capital assets (laptops and conference room equipment).

Employee Hiring: \$800 – costs for background checks for libraries that are recouped through chargebacks.

Insurance: \$8,599 – premiums for ERISA bond, directors and officer's insurance, and property and casualty insurance.

Organizational Memberships: \$10,895 – includes OLC's organizational memberships in ALA, United for Libraries, Freedom to Read Foundation, Buckeye Book Award, and coalition to protect essential public services, etc.

Staff Development and Memberships: \$2,325 – includes fee for employees' memberships in ALA, PLA, ASAE, OSAE, and OLA; registration fees for meetings of OLA, ALA and OSAE.

Catering and Other Meals: \$128,300 – includes charges for food and beverages for OLC Board meetings, unit meetings (one in-person meeting unless otherwise approved), professional development events, Leg Day, C&E; approximately 85% of expense is recouped through event registration fees or other revenue.

Advertising: \$3,700 – includes social media ad buy for public relations campaign.

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES: \$1,929,745

HEDLUND-TUNNELL MOVED AND BAUGHMAN SECONDED APPROVAL OF THE 2026 OLC OPERATING BUDGET AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Russell thanked the Board and staff for their work. Francis thanked the staff for their work.

OLC STRATEGIC
PLANNING

Francis reported that OLC is moving forward with Vista Cova. She reached out to several consultants. Lowell Applebaum with Vista Cova has significant experience with state library associations. He most recently worked with the Texas Library Association (TLA). TLA is very similar to OLC. Also, ICLAE meets regularly and Lowell has worked with that group as well.

There will be a pre-retreat session via zoom and a one and one-half day session in the 2nd quarter. OLC will bring back some former Board members. Francis encouraged members to look at sample plans and on the back page you will see some of the associations Applebaum has worked with.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

Francis reported the OLC has contracted with Lesic & Camper Communications to develop an advocacy and communications strategy to support Ohio's public libraries. To maximize efficiency and reduce costs, this work is being conducted in conjunction with the Ohio Township Association. The project will begin with a statewide public opinion poll. The poll will assess voter attitudes, perceptions, and messaging opportunities related to public libraries and library funding. Staff received initial results yesterday. The majority of the questions on libraries were positive. The toolkit will be the next piece. This data has many uses with the public and the legislature. Polling is something the Board may find useful every other year.

The insights gained will be used to create a toolkit for Ohio's public libraries. The toolkit will help members communicate the value of public libraries more effectively and clearly demonstrate how libraries save Ohioans money and strengthen their communities.

Rochford mentioned the Summit Poll. Lombardo asked if there were any specific questions or concerns that were raised. Public libraries are going to have to educate voters on property tax.

COALITION TO PROTECT ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Francis reported the Coalition to Protect Essential Public Services meets every two weeks to discuss the possible constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes. The coalition includes every statewide association that represents local government.

ALA COUNCILOR REPORT

In addition to his written report, Tepe reported on the following:

Council Midwinter Virtual Meetings. This work to streamline ALA is essential so that ALA can respond to a rapidly changing landscape. The Committee on Organization will be presenting their final recommendations from "COO Review".

Francis noted in their meeting they mentioned a \$15 million deficit.

Lombardo asked about the impact of losing Deborah Caldwell Stone with the workforce reduction. The Deputy Director at OIF is very effective and the work of the office is going forward with her leadership.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

In addition to her written report, Knapp reported on the following:

Facilities. Considering moving collection of high value but low use collection to a storage facility. Next steps are to find a facility to house their staff.

LSTA Grants. The State Library of Ohio approved twelve LSTA Competitive Grants at its December Board meeting.

Listening Tour. Highlights and Takeaways from the State Librarian's Listening Tour can be found on the State Library's website.

Strategic Planning. Strategic planning for the State Library of Ohio is in process.

IMLS. IMLS is currently doing their IMLS grants which is encouraging.

ALA Fly-In. Knapp will be attending the ALA Fly-In in February. State Librarians (COSLA) group is doing a targeted approach.

OPLIN REPORT

In addition to his written report, Yarman reported on the following:

ALA Fly-In. Yarman will be going to Washington DC for ALA Fly-In.

Web Accessibility Webinar. Solomon's webinar "Opening Doors Online: the basics of web accessibility" is currently available. If you have questions regarding accessibility reach out to Don Yarman. Bautz thanked the OPLIN team for webinar information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, Francis reported on the following:

Institutional Membership Dues Billing. The libraries that are capped have been invoiced. 64 county auditors have responded so OLC can now begin invoicing other libraries.

Institutional Membership Survey. OLC received 71 responses. Feedback will be shared with the Board.

2025 OLC Convention and Expo. Francis thanked the Board and OLC staff for their support of the 2025 Convention & Expo. It was a huge success. OLC celebrated its 130th anniversary, and received great feedback from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

America 250 – Ohio Commission meeting. OLC was asked to present at the America 250 – Ohio Commission meeting in December. OLC staff highlighted events and programs happening in Ohio's public libraries across the state in relation to the nation's 250th birthday.

America 250 – Ohio Kickoff. OLC staff attended kickoff event at the Ohio Statehouse with 400 attendees.

Staff Notes. Jeanine D'Andrea's 33rd Anniversary on the OLC staff was on January 11.

GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

In addition to his written report, Francis reported for Smith on the following:

PLF Update. The January PLF distribution came in at \$39,186,904 which is \$839,123 (or -2.10%) below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July of 2025. According to the Office of Budget and Management, total General Revenue Fund tax receipts are \$518.2 million (+3.5%) above estimate for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2026.

Sales Tax Holiday Reminder. The PLF is now a line-item appropriation and is no longer calculated as a percentage of the state's GRF. As a result, public libraries are no longer impacted by the Sales Tax Holiday.

Ohio House and Senate Schedule for First Half of 2026.

The House schedule begins with their first session on Feb. 18 and a final one on June 10. The Senate will be back sooner, with a session planned for Jan. 28, and proposes to wrap up the same week as the House.

Gubernatorial Campaign Update. Both Republican Vivek Ramaswamy and Democrat Amy Acton announced their selection for lieutenant governor running mates. Ramaswamy selected Senate President Rob McColley while Acton selected former Democratic Party Chair David Pepper.

Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Property Taxes. OLC and other local governments have been meeting to organize opposition against the amendment should it make it to the ballot.

Property Tax Legislation (HB 186, HB 335, HB 309)

HB 309 strengthens the authority of county budget commissions to modify or reduce levies if they deem local government collections to be unnecessary or excessive. This bill becomes effective on March 18, 2026.

OLC Library Legislative Day (March 18). Planning for Legislative Day is underway for March 18 at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. Registration for the prep webinar on March 3 is open.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In addition to her written report, Miller reported on the following:

2025 OLC Convention and Expo. There were over 960 attendees. 64 Exhibit booths and 61 breakout sessions. Francis showed the Peter H. Reynolds drawing for OLC's 130th Anniversary. She thanked Jacobsen for getting it framed.

2026 Events.

Many divisions and committees are meeting to prepare their submissions for 2026 Convention and Expo.

More events will be opening soon now that the budget has been approved.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

In addition to her written report, Jacobsen reported on the following:

2025 Convention and Expo. The mobile app was implemented, and we continue to see growth in the number of active app users. Evaluation results have been compiled through the app and will be shared with the Program Committee.

2026 Convention and Expo. The Call for Programs for the 2026 Convention and Expo opened on Dec. 16, 2025. The online program submission form is on the OLC website.

Awards and Honors. The online nomination form forms were created for each award category. The nomination process will continue to be promoted in Access, the OLC website and social media.

Advocacy Calendar. The OLC Advocacy Calendar is on website.

Press Release. A press release will be sent regarding Stacey Russell as the 2026 Chair of the OLC Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

In addition to her written report, D'Andrea reported on the following:

2026 Individual Membership. A second renewal email is scheduled to be sent on Jan. 26. Member Spotlight articles are coming in and will be published as space allows.

Leadership Tracking. Website updates continue to be made to reflect the 2026 Division Action Councils. Board Liaisons will be updated after today's Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Mar. 13, 2026 at the OLC Office.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

BAUTZ MOVED AND DENERO-AKROYD SECONDED TO ADJOURN AT 11:58 A.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **3.B**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Conflict of Interest Policy and
Acknowledgement Form**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

BOARD ORIENTATION

In 2008, the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors adopted the following Conflict of Interest Policy:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

This conflict of interest policy is designed to help directors and officers of the Ohio Library Council identify situations that present potential conflicts of interest and to provide the Ohio Library Council (“OLC”) with a procedure which, if observed, will allow a transaction to be treated as valid and binding even though a director or officer has or may have a conflict of interest with respect to the transaction. The policy is intended to comply with the procedure prescribed in Ohio Revised Code Section 1702.301, governing conflicts of interest for directors of nonprofit corporations. In the event there is an inconsistency between the requirements and procedures prescribed herein and those in ORC Section 1702.301, the statute shall control.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Interested Person. Any director or officer who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
- 1.2 Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:
 - a. An ownership interest in any entity with which the OLC has a transaction or arrangement;
 - b. A compensation arrangement with the OLC or with any entity or individual with which the OLC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement; or
 - c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the OLC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Section 2.2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board decides that a conflict of interest exists.

2. Procedures

- 2.1 Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and all material facts related thereto to the Board or committee of the Board considering a proposed transaction or arrangement.
- 2.2 Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the Board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
- 2.3 Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.
 - a. If the Board determines that a conflict of interest exists, the interested person may make a presentation at the Board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the conflict of interest.
 - b. The chairperson of the Board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - c. After exercising due diligence, the Board or committee shall determine whether the OLC can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the Board or committee may proceed with the proposed transaction or arrangement only if it determines, by a majority vote of the disinterested directors, that the proposed transaction or arrangement is in the OLC's best interest, for its own benefit, and is fair and reasonable.
- 2.4 Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy
 - a. If the Board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a director or officer has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the person of the basis for such belief and afford the director or officer an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
 - b. If, after hearing the director or officer's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board or committee determines the director or officer has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

3. Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the Board and all committees with Board-delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of

interest was present, and the Board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

4. Compensation

- a. A voting member of the Board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the Board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the OLC, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

5. Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with Board delegated powers shall:

5.1 annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the OLC is an entity described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes; and

5.2 annually disclose information concerning possible conflicts of interest.

Each member of the 2025 OLC Board of Directors is asked to sign the attached form to acknowledge an understanding of the policy and to agree to comply with it.

**Ohio Library Council
Board of Directors**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2026**

As a member of the 2026 OLC Board of Directors:

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the Ohio Library Council Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest Policy and pledge to act in accordance with the policy to the best of my information and belief.

I understand that I shall disclose to the Board, preferably in writing, the material facts as to the personal interest in the transaction and in any corporation, partnership, association, or other organization involved in the transaction prior to the meeting at which the Board acts upon the transaction.

I understand that I shall disclose any interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, including names of family members, substantial business, or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members.

I understand that I will excuse myself from the meeting while the transaction is discussed and acted upon.

I agree that if I become aware of any information that might indicate that I am no longer in compliance with this policy, I will notify the Executive Director or Chair of the OLC Board of Directors immediately.

Print Name

Date

Signature

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: 4.A

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Financial Report: Year-End 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Francis

REPORT FOR ACTION

REVENUE

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Dues	\$ 1,241,850	\$ 1,250,165	\$ (8,316)
Publications	315	500	(185)
Continuing Education	433,507	450,875	(17,368)
Contract Income	121,967	5,000	116,967
Other Income	161,518	65,375	96,143
TOTAL	\$ 1,959,156	\$ 1,771,915	\$ 187,241

Dues Income (- \$8,316)

- Institutional Membership: over budget due to Plain City PL joining (+ \$26,161).
- Other Institutions: under budget (- \$2,000).
- Individual Memberships: under budget due to decrease in personal memberships (- \$31,902).
- Friends: under budget due to decrease in Friends membership (- \$575).

Publications (- \$185)

- Sales: under budget due to decrease in requests for hard copies (- \$185).

Continuing Education (- \$17,368)

- Legislative Day: over budget due to increased attendance (+ \$2,665).
- Convention & Expo: over budget due to increased attendance (+ \$38,640).
- Leadership: under budget due to low attendance (- \$4,510).
- Workshops: under budget due to low attendance (- \$54,163).

Contract Income (+ \$116,967)

- Sourcing Office: over budget due to one-time Amazon rebate (+ \$116,967).

Other Income (+ \$96,143)

- Interest and Dividends: over budget due to returns on short-term investments (+ \$35,728).
- Workers' Compensation: under budget due to rate reductions (- \$4,228).
- Unrealized Gain/(Loss): over budget due to returns on long-term investments (+ \$65,847).
- JobLine: under budget due to decrease in non-member posting (- \$1,080).
- Management & Consulting Revenue: under budget due to decrease in background checks (- \$125).

EXPENSES

Cost Center	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 985,180	\$ 991,169	\$ (5,989)
Consultants and Contractors	245,528	222,276	23,252
Supplies and Resources	62,752	64,649	(1,897)
Communications	17,024	22,330	(5,306)
Printing/Design	6,874	15,300	(8,426)
Maintenance and Equipment	66,187	62,294	3,893
Space Rental	163,738	172,373	(8,635)
Travel	38,708	51,000	(12,292)
Management Expenses	246,715	186,482	60,233
TOTAL	\$ 1,832,706	\$ 1,787,873	\$ 44,833

Salaries and Benefits (- \$5,989)

- Staff Salaries: slightly over budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments (+ \$3,870).
- Accrued Vacation: reflects accrued vacation (+ \$2,904).
- Retirement: under budget due to timing of plan contributions (- \$7,140).
- Health Insurance: under budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments (- \$7,390).
- Worker's Compensation: slightly under budget due to BWC rebates (- \$90).
- Payroll Taxes: slightly over budget due to timing of 2025 adjustments (+ \$1,808).
- LTD & Life Insurance: on budget (+ \$50).

Consultants and Contractors (+ \$23,252)

- Auditor: slightly over budget (+ \$250).
- Speaker Honoraria: over budget (+ \$3,200).
- Legal Services: under budget due to delayed invoicing (- \$17,986).
- Expo Contractors: over budget (+ \$16,344).
- Consultants/Contractors: over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$21,444).

Supplies and Resources (- \$1,897)

- Supplies: on budget (+ \$68).
- Subscription/Resource Materials: on budget (+ \$16).
- Computer Software/Supplies: under budget (- \$1,982).

Communications (- \$5,306)

- Telephone: Local/Mobile: on budget (+ \$5).
- Postage/Mailing/Courier Service: under budget (- \$5,330).
- Internet: on budget (+ \$19).

Printing and Design (- \$8,426)

- Printing: under budget due to timing of payments (- \$7,137).
- Design: on budget (- \$290).
- Copying: under budget (- \$1,000).

Maintenance and Equipment (+ \$3,893)

- Equipment Rental: over budget due to coding (+ \$4,850).
- Equipment Maintenance: under budget (- \$1,036).
- Software Support: on budget (+ \$78).

Space Rental (- \$8,635)

- Office Space: under budget (- \$263).
- Convention & Expo: under budget (- \$8,400).
- Workshops / Meetings: on budget (+ \$28).

Travel (- \$12,292)

- Board: under budget due to reimbursements (- \$3,022).
- Staff: under budget due to timing of reimbursements (- \$2,638).
- Committees and Divisions: over budget due to coding for C&E (+ \$445).
- Presenters: under budget due to timing of reimbursements (- \$6,184).

Management Expenses (+ \$60,233)

- Bank Services: over budget (+ \$8,138).
- Investment Fees: over budget (+ \$636).
- Depreciation Replacement: over budget (+ \$867).
- Employee Hiring: under budget for library background checks (- \$190).
- Insurance: slightly over budget (+ \$223).
- Organization Memberships: over budget due to timing of payments (+ \$4,149).
- Staff Development and Memberships: under budget due to timing (- \$1,442).
- Catering and Other Meals: over initial budget due to RRHOF Reception (+ \$47,851).

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Net Change in Assets	\$ 126,450	\$ (15,958)	\$ 142,408

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Wednesday, December 31, 2025

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
REVENUE						
Dues						
Institutional	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,032,851.00	\$1,006,690.00	\$26,161.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,875.00	8,875.00	(2,000.00)
Personal	115.00	0.00	115.00	200,098.50	232,000.00	(31,901.50)
Friends	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,025.00	2,600.00	(575.00)
Subtotal	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$115.00	\$1,241,849.50	\$1,250,165.00	(\$8,315.50)
Publications						
Sales	50.00	0.00	50.00	315.00	500.00	(185.00)
Subtotal	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$315.00	\$500.00	(\$185.00)
Continuing Education						
Legislative Day	(65.00)	0.00	(65.00)	20,540.00	17,875.00	2,665.00
Convention & Expo	5,070.00	600.00	4,470.00	309,065.00	270,425.00	38,640.00
Leadership	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,740.00	8,250.00	(4,510.00)
Workshops	1,325.00	350.00	975.00	100,162.00	154,325.00	(54,163.00)
Subtotal	\$6,330.00	\$950.00	\$5,380.00	\$433,507.00	\$450,875.00	(\$17,368.00)
Contract Income						
Shared Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	121,966.94	5,000.00	116,966.94
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121,966.94	\$5,000.00	\$116,966.94
Other Income						
Interest & Dividends	27,228.89	2,500.00	24,728.89	65,728.46	30,000.00	35,728.46
Workers Compensation	(3,141.75)	0.00	(3,141.75)	28,272.00	32,500.00	(4,228.00)
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(21,191.52)	0.00	(21,191.52)	65,847.44	0.00	65,847.44
Jobline	0.00	160.00	(160.00)	920.00	2,000.00	(1,080.00)
Mgmt & Consulting Revenue	100.00	45.00	55.00	750.00	875.00	(125.00)
Subtotal	\$2,995.62	\$2,705.00	\$290.62	\$161,517.90	\$65,375.00	\$96,142.90
Total Revenue	\$9,490.62	\$3,655.00	\$5,835.62	\$1,959,156.34	\$1,771,915.00	\$187,241.34

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Wednesday, December 31, 2025

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
EXPENSES						
Salary & Benefits						
Staff Salaries	\$78,659.77	\$73,932.00	\$4,727.77	\$757,228.36	\$753,358.00	\$3,870.36
Accrued Vacation	(6,002.73)	0.00	(6,002.73)	2,903.50	0.00	2,903.50
Retirement Contribution	9,751.34	6,378.00	3,373.34	68,195.72	75,336.00	(7,140.28)
Health Insurance	6,826.46	8,178.00	(1,351.54)	93,277.71	100,668.00	(7,390.29)
Workers' Compensation	33.99	0.00	33.99	210.86	301.00	(90.14)
Payroll Taxes	8,133.37	4,610.00	3,523.37	59,063.45	57,255.00	1,808.45
LTD & Life Insurance	377.88	385.00	(7.12)	4,300.80	4,251.00	49.80
Subtotal	\$97,780.08	\$93,483.00	\$4,297.08	\$985,180.40	\$991,169.00	(\$5,988.60)
Consultants & Contractors						
Auditor	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,250.00	8,000.00	250.00
Speaker Honoraria	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	29,400.00	26,200.00	3,200.00
Legal Services	4,191.10	8,750.00	(4,558.90)	17,014.10	35,000.00	(17,985.90)
Expo Contractors	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,294.26	55,950.00	16,344.26
Consult / Contractors	30,213.62	9,894.00	20,319.62	118,569.95	97,126.00	21,443.95
Subtotal	\$38,904.72	\$18,644.00	\$20,260.72	\$245,528.31	\$222,276.00	\$23,252.31
Supplies & Resources						
Supplies	1,088.30	1,509.00	(420.70)	28,217.42	28,149.00	68.42
Subscriptions / Res Mat	509.87	537.00	(27.13)	6,416.40	6,400.00	16.40
Computer Sftwr / Supplies	2,162.33	2,438.00	(275.67)	28,118.36	30,100.00	(1,981.64)
Subtotal	\$3,760.50	\$4,484.00	(\$723.50)	\$62,752.18	\$64,649.00	(\$1,896.82)
Communications						
Telephone - Local	690.72	289.00	401.72	3,470.20	3,465.00	5.20
Postage	274.39	293.00	(18.61)	2,004.55	6,935.00	(4,930.45)
Mailing Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	(300.00)
Courier / Special	0.00	9.00	(9.00)	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Internet	943.00	961.00	(18.00)	11,549.42	11,530.00	19.42
Subtotal	\$1,908.11	\$1,552.00	\$356.11	\$17,024.17	\$22,330.00	(\$5,305.83)
Printing & Typesetting						
Printing	0.00	427.00	(427.00)	2,863.37	10,000.00	(7,136.63)
Typesetting	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,510.00	2,800.00	(290.00)
Copying	71.72	69.00	2.72	1,500.44	2,500.00	(999.56)
Subtotal	\$71.72	\$496.00	(\$424.28)	\$6,873.81	\$15,300.00	(\$8,426.19)

Ohio Library Council
Income Statement
For the 12 Months Ending Wednesday, December 31, 2025

	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Maintenance & Equip						
Equipment Rental	\$864.79	\$807.00	\$57.79	\$64,429.36	\$59,579.00	\$4,850.36
Equipment Maintenance	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	764.06	1,800.00	(1,035.94)
Software Support	83.90	76.00	7.90	993.47	915.00	78.47
Subtotal	\$948.69	\$1,383.00	(\$434.31)	\$66,186.89	\$62,294.00	\$3,892.89
Space Rental						
Office Space	9,911.84	10,113.00	(201.16)	121,086.60	121,350.00	(263.40)
Convention / Expo	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,100.00	37,500.00	(8,400.00)
Workshops / Meetings	875.14	0.00	875.14	13,550.93	13,523.00	27.93
Subtotal	\$10,786.98	\$10,113.00	\$673.98	\$163,737.53	\$172,373.00	(\$8,635.47)
Travel						
Board	807.24	0.00	807.24	4,478.39	7,500.00	(3,021.61)
Staff Travel	3,767.33	1,450.00	2,317.33	27,361.68	30,000.00	(2,638.32)
Committees	2,959.88	102.00	2,857.88	3,051.65	1,400.00	1,651.65
Divisions	0.00	182.00	(182.00)	0.00	2,100.00	(2,100.00)
Presenters	2,172.36	0.00	2,172.36	3,816.48	10,000.00	(6,183.52)
Subtotal	\$9,706.81	\$1,734.00	\$7,972.81	\$38,708.20	\$51,000.00	(\$12,291.80)
Management Expenses						
Bank Services	825.42	582.00	243.42	15,118.15	6,980.00	8,138.15
Investment Fees	601.95	520.00	81.95	6,876.77	6,240.00	636.77
Depreciation	1,073.22	968.00	105.22	12,561.97	11,695.00	866.97
Employee Hiring	35.00	67.00	(32.00)	610.00	800.00	(190.00)
Insurance	693.46	693.00	0.46	8,545.29	8,322.00	223.29
Organizational Mbrshps	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,349.00	1,200.00	4,149.00
Staff Devel & Mbrshps	709.00	0.00	709.00	3,558.00	5,000.00	(1,442.00)
Catering & Other Meals	6,447.11	2,492.00	3,955.11	194,095.67	146,245.00	47,850.67
Subtotal	\$15,385.16	\$5,322.00	\$10,063.16	\$246,714.85	\$186,482.00	\$60,232.85
Total Expenses	\$179,252.77	\$137,211.00	\$42,041.77	\$1,832,706.34	\$1,787,873.00	\$44,833.34
Net Change in Assets	(\$169,762.15)	(\$133,556.00)	(\$36,206.15)	\$126,450.00	(\$15,958.00)	\$142,408.00

Ohio Library Council
Balance Sheet
As of Wednesday, December 31, 2025

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments

Commerce Nat'l Bank - Checking	\$56,609.22
Commerce Nat'l Bank- Money Market	154,918.43
Investments - Money Market	3,258.02
Investments - TRAK Account	661,923.91
Investments - Mutual Funds	841,010.14
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	<u>\$1,717,719.72</u>

Other Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	(87.00)
Office Equipment (net of Accum Depr)	51,429.97
Prepaid Postage	402.89
Prepayments	54,220.31
Total Other Current Assets	<u>\$105,966.17</u>

Total Assets

\$1,823,685.89

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$51,124.39
Advances	42,432.36
Accrued Salaries	9,265.01
Accrued Vacation	47,470.03
Accrued PR Taxes	891.80
Accrued Insurance	1,413.79
Total Liabilities	<u>\$152,597.38</u>

Net Assets

Unappropriated Fund Balance	1,544,638.51
YTD Change in Net Assets	126,450.00
Total Net Assets	<u>\$1,671,088.51</u>

Total Liabilities & Net Assets

\$1,823,685.89

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **4.B**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Nominating Committee
Appointment**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR ACTION

In addition to Mary Ellen Icaza, Chair, and Susan Titkemeier, who represent the OLC Board of Directors, the OLC Nominating Committee includes three At-Large (non-OLC Board members) members who serve three-year terms. Current At-Large members include Tara Sidwell, Director, Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library (2026) and Ryan McDonnell, Director, Grandview Heights Public Library (2027). A vacancy exists for the third At-Large position as the term of Michael Penrod, Director, Wood County District Public Library, expired at the end of 2025.

As is past practice, candidates for this position were considered based upon the current composition of the current committee and the demographic criteria that should be represented – e.g., geographic area of the state, size of library, etc. Staff recommends the following action:

Recommended Action:

**That the OLC Board of Directors appoint Chris May, Director,
Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, to serve as an At-Large member on
the OLC Nominating Committee for a three-year term (2026-2028).**

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.:	4.C	MEETING DATE:	March 13, 2026
SUBJECT:	Andrew Carnegie Award	SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Francis

REPORT FOR ACTION

About the Andrew Carnegie Award

This award is presented to government officials who have exhibited outstanding support of public libraries and their efforts to assure quality public library services to all Ohioans. Previous recipients of this award include Governors, Ohio House Speakers, Ohio Senate Presidents and members of the General Assembly. This award is so named because no one person has given more to public libraries than Andrew Carnegie.

Previous Andrew Carnegie Award Recipients

1995 – Vern Riffe, House Speaker
1995 – Stan Aronoff, Senate President
1996 – Richard Finan, Senator
1997 – George Voinovich, Governor
1998 – Priscilla Mead, Representative
1999 – Roy Ray, Senator
2001 – Randy Gardner, Senator
2002 – Larry Householder, House Speaker
2003 – Mark Mallory, Senator
2005 – John Carey, Senator
2013 – Bill Beagle, Senator
2017 – Ryan Smith, Representative
2020 – Larry Obhof, Senate President
2022 – Jay Hottinger, Senator
2023 – Matt Dolan, Senator

Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine

The OLC Government Relations Committee (GRC) and OLC staff are recommending that the Andrew Carnegie Award be presented to Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine.

The GRC and OLC staff would like to continue our tradition of recognizing individuals who support Ohio's public libraries and advocate on their behalf. Gov. DeWine and the First Lady have never wavered in their support of early childhood literacy, Ohio's public libraries and their efforts to provide quality public library service to all Ohioans. Over the past 7 years they helped to establish the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio:

- More than 25 million books have been mailed since Ohio's program was established in 2019.
- 70% of households with children under five years old are currently participating.
- DPIL has been available in all zip codes since 2020.
- Ohio has the highest enrollment of any state in the DPIL program.

Both Gov. DeWine and Mrs. DeWine have dedicated decades to public service and championed literacy for all Ohioans.

As the 70th Governor of the State of Ohio, DeWine's distinguished career includes service as Ohio's 50th Attorney General, U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, Ohio Lieutenant Governor, Ohio State Senator and Greene County Prosecutor.

RESOLVED, That the Andrew Carnegie Award be presented to Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine.

Becoming a strong advocate in the eight years she has been in Ohio, helping to stave off materials restrictions and the worst of the funding cuts after testifying before the Ohio Senate.

Honors and Awards (library and non-library)

- Athena Award Nominee, 2022, Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber (Ohio)
- 2012 City Manager's Award of Excellence: Plan and Innovate for the Future, City of Scottsdale (Arizona)
- 2012 Citation for Outstanding work by the ALA Office for Information Technology and Policy's Program on America's Libraries for the 21st Century, with Anne Porter for creation of the Gimme Engine book recommendation mobile website
- 2006 Arizona Library Association's Outstanding Service Award

Candidate's Websites

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aimeefifarek/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aimee.fifarek/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/afifarek>
- Library Website: <https://www.libraryvisit.org/>
- Library Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/plymc/>
- Library Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ThePLYMC/>

Personal Statement

"I am seeking the position of PLA President-elect because public libraries are facing unprecedented challenges, and I believe our profession must speak with clarity and courage in defense of intellectual freedom and open access to information. I am committed to ensuring PLA remains a safe, supportive space for library workers while we work together to confront censorship, funding pressures, and intimidation. Building on my record of local and statewide leadership, I will bring a steady, collaborative voice to national advocacy on behalf of all public libraries."

About the Election

In the 2026 PLA election, eight nominees will stand for four positions – PLA President, ALA Division Councilor and two Directors-at-Large. These are crucial leadership roles that will guide PLA into the next several years, ensuring that PLA delivers on its core purpose to strengthen public libraries and their contribution to the communities they serve.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OLC Board of Directors
Elections – 2026**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

In the 2026 OLC elections, four positions on the Board of Directors will be on the ballot, including one MLIS position, one Trustee position, and two At-Large positions. Current Board members serving in these positions (and their eligibility for re-election) include:

Position	Board Member	Term(s) of Service	Eligible for Re-Election
MLIS	Travis Bautz	2024-26	Yes
Trustee	Sandra Hedlund Tunnell	2024-26	Yes
At-Large	Mary Ellen Icaza	2024-26	No
At-Large	Stacey Russell	2024-26	Yes

Current Board members eligible for re-election are asked to indicate whether they wish to be candidates for re-election. The OLC Nominating Committee will be responsible for identifying and recommending candidates for election, including incumbents as well as new candidates for election to the Board.

In the past, a call for candidates interested in being considered for election to the Board has been included in *This Week* and *Access* and posted on the OLC website beginning on the Monday following the March Board meeting and continuing through April. The posting includes a link to an online form that interested members are asked to submit. It includes contact information, details about their library and OLC experience, and a statement regarding their interest in serving on the OLC Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee uses this information to select the nominees and create the election slate. Based on feedback and discussion, OLC staff will work with former members of the OLC Board of Directors on encouraging volunteers to run for the board.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.B**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OLC Strategic Planning**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

**OLC Strategic Planning
2026**

Important Dates

- OLC Board Strategic Planning – Pre-Retreat Session via Zoom
 - April 6 at 3:00 PM
- OLC Board Strategic Planning – Retreat
 - April 21: 8 AM – 5 PM
 - April 22: 8 AM – 12 PM
 - OLC Offices in Dublin

Resource Library

- Previous OLC Strategic Plans
- OLC Code of Regulations
- Organizational Chart
- Previous Institutional Membership Survey Results
- Previous State of OLC Presentation
- 2026 OLC Board Manual
- Vista Cova's ["Why a Strategic Core is Needed Today More Than Ever"](#)

Leadership Conversations

- Mary Ellen Icaza, CEO & Executive Director, Stark Library, Past Chair of the OLC Board of Directors and current member of the OLC Board of Directors
- Kacie Armstrong, Director, Euclid Public Library, Past Chair of the OLC Board of Directors and former member of the OLC Board of Directors, 2022 Librarian of the Year
- Jason Elvers, OLC Legal Counsel, Partner in Columbus Office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
- Karl Colon, Executive Director, Greene County Public Library, Member of the OLC Government Relations Committee

Leadership Survey

- Distributed to OLC Board of Directors
- Distributed to OLC Board Retreat Participants
- Distributed to OLC Staff

Strategic Planning Retreat Participants

- Current OLC Board Members
 - Monica Baughman
 - Travis Bautz
 - Julianne Bedel
 - Kim DeNero-Ackroyd
 - Sandra Hedlund Tunnell
 - Cindy Lombardo
 - Liz Muether
 - Bernie Rochford
 - Stacey Russell
 - William Rutger
 - Susan Titkemeier
- Former OLC Board Members
 - Sarah Clevidence
 - Aimee Fifarek
 - Cheryl Kuonen
 - Laura Lee Wilson
- OLC Staff
 - Jeanine D'Andrea, Director of Membership Services
 - Michelle Francis, Executive Director
 - Angie Jacobsen, Director of Communications
 - Denise Kise, Accounting/Data Services Manager
 - Laurie Miller, Director of Professional Development
 - Jay Smith, Director of Government & Legal Services
 - Ro Swanson, Technology Coordinator

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OLC PR Campaign/Polling**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

On Feb. 24, 2026, the OLC released results from a statewide poll showing strong bipartisan support for Ohio's public libraries, with voters identifying library services as essential to everyday life.

The January 2026 research, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the Ohio Library Council and the Ohio Township Association, examined voter attitudes toward libraries, townships and local funding. The findings show overwhelming appreciation for library services and broad agreement across party lines that libraries are a worthwhile public investment. Libraries also rank among the most trusted and highly valued public services in Ohio.

The press release, poll memo from Public Opinion Strategies and an executive summary are included below.



For Immediate Release

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New research shows Ohioans strongly value local library and township services — and support local funding that keeps them strong

For millions of Ohioans, the services that shape daily life, emergency response, safe roads, job help, and access to learning — come from local libraries and township government

COLUMBUS — February 24, 2026 – New statewide research shows overwhelming bipartisan support for Ohio’s public libraries and township governments, with voters saying these services are essential to everyday life.

The January 2026 survey of Ohio voters finds that libraries and townships rank among the most trusted and highest-valued public services in the state.

“Ohioans view their libraries and township services as everyday necessities, not optional amenities,” said Neil Newhouse, a nationally respected pollster with Washington-based Public Opinion Strategies who conducted the research. “What the data show is that appreciation for the services comes first. When voters understand how those services are funded locally, support for maintaining that funding follows.”

Across Ohio, public libraries rely on locally approved property tax levies, which now account for more than half of their overall funding statewide. Townships rely heavily on locally approved property taxes — about two-thirds of their revenue on average to fund essential services.

While most residents don’t initially understand how townships and libraries are funded, the research finds that once Ohioans learn these services rely primarily on locally approved property taxes, strong majorities support keeping that local funding in place.

Ohio’s Public Libraries: Providing Everyday Services Residents Rely On

Libraries support children and families through early literacy programs, tutoring, and after-school spaces. They strengthen the workforce by helping residents search for jobs, build skills, and access career training. They bridge the digital divide with free Wi-Fi, computers, and technology assistance. And they deliver everyday services such as printing, notary work, and access to government resources. According to the research (executive summary attached):

- **90% of Ohioans say public libraries are important to their local community, and rank among the highest rated local services**
- **69% recall a specific time their library helped them personally**
- **87% say they get their money's worth from library services for the taxes they pay**
- **71% believe libraries provide many of the most basic services people rely on every day**
- **Nearly half of Ohio voters say they or a family member used a library service in the past month, and nearly two-thirds have done so within the past few months**

"Ohioans don't just appreciate their libraries, they rely on them on a daily basis," said Michelle Francis, Executive Director of the Ohio Library Council. "They are locally supported, widely used, and deeply embedded in their communities. This research shows that people see real, personal value in the services libraries provide. They understand that library funding isn't abstract."

As one Ohioan said: "Local libraries give my kids a safe place to study, borrow books, and access Wi-Fi after school... I rely on the library as a neighborhood hub, with free Wi-Fi for job hunts and room for study groups."

Another added: "They helped me write a resume, print it, and find jobs to send it to. They provide job counseling, job postings, and ways to acquire materials."

Among the most trusted and widely used public institutions in the state, Ohio's **251 public library systems** are free, welcoming hubs that support daily life at every stage. With some of the highest library usage rates in the nation, Ohio libraries log more than **48 million visits each year**, and **7.4 million Ohioans hold library cards**, underscoring their central role in communities across the state.

Independent economic analysis shows that every **\$1 invested** in Ohio's libraries returns more than **\$4 in value, generating over \$3 billion in statewide economic impact**.

Ohio's Townships: Frontline Services That Keep Communities Safe

The statewide survey also confirms the central role townships play in daily life for roughly four million Ohio residents — more than one-third of the state's population.

Across Ohio's 1,308 townships, these governments deliver the core public safety and infrastructure services that keep communities functioning. Townships provide the services residents rely on most — from fire, EMS, and police protection, to maintaining more than 41,000 miles of local roads, more than the Ohio Department of Transportation. They also provide parks, zoning, and senior services that help keep communities safe, stable, and livable.

Altogether, communities supported by township services account for more than **\$413 billion in economic activity and 1.8 million jobs across Ohio**.

The research shows that not only do residents rely on township services, but also report strong satisfaction with both the services themselves and the communities they support, and township residents overwhelmingly believe decisions about how those services are funded should remain in local hands.

- **64%** say townships provide many of the most basic services people rely on
- **79%** of township residents support keeping funding authority local
- **76%** say they are satisfied with their community as a place to live — the highest satisfaction level among residents in townships, cities, villages, and other local governments statewide
- **85%** are satisfied with fire and ambulance services, and **74%** are satisfied with parks and recreation

Residents consistently describe township government in practical, everyday terms. One respondent noted, *“If something happens, township services are who show up — fire, EMS, road crews. That’s what people depend on.”* Another emphasized local accountability: *“Townships handle the everyday things communities need, and because they’re local, they understand what residents actually want.”*

“Township governments exist to provide the services residents count on most,” said Heidi M. Fought, Executive Director of the Ohio Township Association. “Local funding allows communities to decide what works best for them.”

In the end, the research points to a simple conclusion: Ohioans value the services their libraries and townships provide every day, and they want decisions about those services to stay close to home. From safe roads and emergency response to learning, job access, and community connection, these local services are central to daily life across the state. Protecting them means ensuring communities have the local tools, funding, and flexibility needed to keep them strong, responsive, and accessible to the residents who depend on them.

###

Ohio's Public Libraries: Essential Services Ohioans Rely On



Ohio's public libraries are vital to local communities, delivering literacy, workforce support, and connectivity to millions of Ohioans through services residents depend on year-round.

Across the state, people turn to their libraries for help, opportunity, and connection — to learn, work, apply, search, and get help for the needs and problems they face.

Among the most trusted and heavily used public institutions in the state, Ohio's libraries are free, welcoming hubs that support people at every stage of life. With the **second-highest visits per capita in the nation**, they serve millions each year while doing more with less (the fourth lowest in terms of expenditure per library transaction).

A library isn't a luxury — it's an everyday problem solver, a place people turn when they need help, answers, opportunity, or a way forward. Ohio libraries fulfill this role by delivering a broad range of important services:

Supporting Children, Students, and Families

Libraries support learning at every stage—offering early literacy, homework help, tutoring and after-school programming. They provide spaces where kids and teens can learn, grow, and stay engaged year-round.

Strengthening Ohio's Workforce and Local Economies

Libraries are a front door to opportunity, helping residents search and apply for jobs, build résumés, and access career resources. They support job seekers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses with training, technology, meeting space, online courses, and one-on-one assistance that fuels employment and local economic growth.

Bridge the Digital Divide and Access to Information

Libraries provide free access to books, e-books, research tools, learning materials, and media—along with essential technology like Wi-Fi, computers, printers, scanners, and hands-on tech support—so every Ohioan can participate fully in modern life.

Deliver Everyday Services People Rely On

Libraries offer practical services residents depend on, including printing, faxing, notary services, passport processing, and access to critical digital and government resources.

Serve as Trusted Community Anchors

Libraries are welcoming, neutral gathering places—open to everyone—where programs and partnerships are shaped locally to meet the specific needs of each neighborhood.

Libraries are among the most heavily used institutions in Ohio

48.1 million library visits each year

7.4 million Ohioans hold library cards

251 public library systems

153.7 million items borrowed or downloaded annually

23.4 million Wi-Fi sessions

and 6.3 million computer uses per year.

Public support for libraries is broad, deep, bipartisan and measurable

According to research conducted in January 2026:

- **90% of Ohioans** say public libraries are important to their local community.
- **More than two-thirds (69%)** can recall a specific time their library helped them personally.
- **An overwhelming 87%** say they get their money's worth from library services for the taxes they pay.
- **64%** of Ohio voters say they or a family member used a library service within the past few months.
- **71%** believe libraries provide many of the most basic services people rely on in their daily lives
- Nearly nine-out-of-ten Ohio voters (**87%**) believe they get their money's worth in services from their local libraries for the taxes they pay, including 83% of Republicans, 85% of Independents and 93% of Democrats.
- Residents consistently ranked libraries among the highest-rated local public services.

Local Property Taxes Fund Libraries – and Losing Them has Real Consequences

Across Ohio, public libraries rely on locally approved property tax levies, which now account for more than half of their overall funding statewide. A proposed constitutional amendment is being circulated that would eliminate property taxes statewide, beginning as early as 2027. No replacement funding source has been identified. As such, **eliminating that funding source would have severe consequences:**

- **Essential services would face immediate reductions**, including canceled programs, reduced hours, and potential library branch closures.
- **Local control would be lost.** Abolishing property taxes takes power away from the voters stripping communities of their decision-making ability to shape library funding based on local needs and values.
- **Community partnerships would weaken.** Libraries stretch limited dollars by working closely with schools, workforce agencies, food banks, arts organizations, and social services. Funding cuts unravel those networks and reduce their reach.

PROTECT WHAT COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON. Ohio's Libraries: Trusted. Local. Essential.

Libraries deliver exceptional value for taxpayers. Independent analysis shows that every \$1 invested in Ohio's public libraries returns more than \$4 in value to Ohioans — and more than \$3 billion in direct economic impact statewide.

They are locally supported, widely used, and deeply trusted. Protecting them means protecting the local services residents rely on.

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: NEIL NEWHOUSE, FOUNDER – PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

RE: RECENT OHIO STATEWIDE POLLING RESULTS

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2026



METHODOLOGY

Public Opinion Strategies recently conducted an Ohio statewide poll of registered voters on behalf of the Ohio Library Council and the Ohio Township Association. The poll consisted of interviews with 800 registered voters in addition to an oversample to reach a total of 496 township residents. The margin of error on the 800 sample of voters is $\pm 3.95\%$, and for the township sample is $\pm 5.02\%$.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Ohioans view their libraries and township services as everyday necessities, not optional amenities, and they value the services that each provide every day.

KEY FINDINGS: OHIO LIBRARIES

- 1.** Ohio voters rate their level of satisfaction with their “local public libraries” among the highest of eight different services that voters receive in their communities (86% “satisfied” 51% “very satisfied”).
- 2.** Fully 90% of voters believe that public libraries “are important to the community,” with many citing libraries are free, equitable hubs for learning, internet/technology access, safe “third spaces” to keep kids engaged after school and in the summer, and offer programs to serve seniors, kids and low-income residents.
- 3.** But, Ohio voters don’t just give public libraries “lip-service,” they utilize library services – 44% of those interviewed say that they or a family member have utilized a public library service in the past month, and 64% have within the “past few months.” Further, fully 69% of Ohio voters say they “remember a time when your local public library helped them.” These figures clearly cut across partisan lines (63% among Republicans, 68% among Independents and 77% among Democrats).
- 4.** Nearly nine-out-of-ten Ohio voters (87%) believe they get their money’s worth in services from their local libraries for the taxes they pay, including 83% of Republicans, 85% of Independents and 93% of Democrats.
- 5.** When asked about the role that Ohio’s public libraries play in voters’ lives, fully 71% believe that “Ohio’s public Libraries provide many of the basic services people rely on today.”
- 6.** It’s probably not a stretch to say that Ohioans are in love with their local libraries, as they provide services that residents need and depend on.

(continued)

KEY FINDINGS: OHIO TOWNSHIPS

1. While Ohioans may understand their local governance, they have no idea how townships are funded, with fewer than 50%, including those living in townships, knowing their local government is primarily funded through property taxes.
2. Nearly 80% of township residents believe that local voters should be responsible for deciding how to allocate township services. This sentiment cuts across party lines, with 80% of Republicans, 72% of Independents and 79% of Democrats agreeing.
3. When asked about the importance of a number of services they receive, township voters put fire/ambulance, roads/bridges and police protection at the top of the list. And, by a 48-point margin, township voters say they are satisfied with the quality and value of services provided by their local government for the taxes they pay.
4. Similar to the findings about public libraries, 64% of township residents believe that “Ohio’s townships provide many of the basic services people rely on today.”
5. Fully 76% of township voters say they are satisfied with their community as a place to live — the highest satisfaction level among residents in townships, cities, villages, and other local governments statewide.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.A**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Council Winter Virtual Meetings

Council's midwinter virtual meetings were held at the end of January, and continued the trend of Council engaging effectively on important matters for the organization without getting bogged down or distracted by items that are not of immediate importance to the organization. Discussion was so robust on several important items that Council was not able to finish our work in the scheduled three meetings, and so will be meeting again on March 10 to finish the items that were slated for this session.

The reorganization of standing committees that came from the "COO Review" that I mentioned in my previous report passed Council with minimal discussion, which I mostly credit to a lot of pre-work done by committee members to ensure that councilors understood why the Committee on Organization (COO) was making these recommendations, and why they were important for the continued success of the organization. Fundamentally this comes down to two factors: first, the organization is shrinking as more and more libraries are reducing staff and staff support to participate in professional organizations, which means there are fewer volunteers available to serve on committees. Second, the organization's financial crisis means that we have to reduce the number of staff available to assist these committees, and the remaining staff do not have the capacity to effectively support so many committees.

The 10 motions brought to council by COO resulted in a net reduction of 9 standing committees, taking us from 38 standing committees to 29. While there is probably more streamlining that needs to happen, this is a good start. Three of the motions received the most discussion. First, the recommendation to rename the Budget Analysis and Review Committee to Finance committee, and change its membership to include members of the Executive Board in order to eliminate the Executive Board's Finance and Audit committee. This will eliminate the need for staff to present and get approval twice from the two separate committees. Second, the recommendation to merge the Committee on the Status of Women in Libraries into the Committee on Diversity. While CoSWoL predated the Committee on Diversity by a number of years, today the work of the two committees runs parallel, and this merge will provide more opportunities to align the work of the committees. Third, the recommendation to merge the Committee on Professional Ethics with the Intellectual Freedom Committee. As with the Diversity committee and CoSWoL, the work of these two committees is highly aligned, and this merger will provide more opportunities to align that work. COO did consider renaming the merged committee "Professional Values" to more accurately represent the work of the committee, however with the current attacks on intellectual freedom felt that the merged committee should remain the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Next Council approved recommended changes to the process of nominating and electing members of the Executive Board. Currently only councilors who are serving their terms are eligible for election to the Executive Board, however the motion approved by Council expands that pool to members who, within the last five years, served on Council, in elected Division or roundtable positions, or as a chair of a standing committee. This will allow for much more flexibility in making nominations of individuals who have the specific skills that the organization needs at that moment. The actual election of the Executive Board will remain in Council. Council also approved the elimination of the Committee on Committees, which had been responsible for nominating the candidates for the Executive Board and making recommendations to the President-elect for

6.A: ALA Councilor Report

committee appointments. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for nominating candidates for Executive Board, since they are already looking organization-wide for candidates for President and Treasurer. Recommendations on committee appointments will be made by the incoming President-elect's advisory committee, a previously informal committee that will now be formalized.

One last item that needs to be highlighted is that Council approved a change to the Endowment policy to allow the Executive Board in consultation with the Endowment Trustees to waive or suspend repayment of withdrawals from the endowment outside of the annually determined payout rate. There was a great deal of discussion about this action, with many expressing concern about drawing down the endowment outside of the annual payout without repayment. While I understand some Councilors' alarm at this, I believe we have to recognize that action like this may be necessary to preserve the organization. ALA has been borrowing money at an unsustainable rate, and while we are starting to take the actions needed to fix this problem, an organization of this size will not be able to get to where it needs to be quickly. In these circumstances it may be necessary to draw down the endowment rather than paying interest on unsustainable debt. I believe that the Executive Board will take any action like this very seriously, and having worked in the past with an organization that was facing a similar set of circumstances, I recognize the necessity.

In other actions, Council also:

- Approved the last two interpretations of the new core values, Public Good and Equity. Now that all five core values have approved interpretations, they will be posted on the website and be made more widely available.
- Approved the formation of a task force to review all existing codes of conduct (in-person, virtual meeting, and online) to address inconsistencies and gaps between them. There will also likely be a change recommended to the charge of the Code of Conduct Committee to expand their responsibilities to all codes of conduct. Currently they are only responsible for the online code of conduct. Also related to this, the Membership committee had recommended a process for removing and reinstating members who may have violated the code of conduct, however Council referred the motion back to the committee pending the results of the task force's work.
- Approved changes to the Bylaws covering how unexpected vacancies in the positions of President, President-elect, and Treasurer will be filled, what constitutes a "session" vs. a "meeting" of Council, and the necessary changes for the nominating and election process for the Executive Board discussed above.

When Council reconvenes on March 10, we will consider recommended changes from the Policy Monitoring Committee, a resolution in support of librarians and institutions preserving government information since January 21, 2025, a new librarian and library workers' bill of rights, and an honorary membership. The resolution and bill of rights have already received a lot of attention and work due to the delay bringing them to the floor, and are much stronger now than when first proposed. Because of that work I believe both will pass with little additional discussion needed.

Statement Regarding H.R. 7661

In response to H.R. 7661, introduced on Feb. 24, American Library Association President Sam Helmick issued the following [statement](#):

"Parents, not politicians, should guide their children's reading. In our school, campus, and public libraries, materials are selected by trained literacy professionals who understand child development and community needs. Their work is grounded in one clear purpose: helping young people become lifelong readers.

"H.R. 7661 isn't fundamentally about protecting kids. It's about giving politicians broad authority to restrict whose stories are allowed on our shelves. That should concern anyone who believes in the freedom to read and the right of families to make decisions for themselves.

6.A: ALA Councilor Report

"Rather than targeting librarians and teachers, Congress should invest in them. The Right to Read Act offers a better path, supporting well-staffed and well-resourced school libraries, strengthening evidence-based literacy instruction, and protecting the dedicated professionals who help young people discover books that open doors and expand horizons. When we trust families, support educators, and protect the freedom to read, our young people thrive."

H.R. 7761, also known as the "Stop the Sexualization of Children Act," would modify the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by prohibiting use of funds under the act "to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for, or to provide or promote literature or other materials to, children under the age of 18 that includes sexually oriented material, and for other purposes."

ALA urges advocates to call their members of Congress at the Capitol switchboard (202.224.3121) and ask them to oppose H.R. 7661.

Message from the State Librarian

February is the shortest month of the year, but it was full of excitement at the State Library. We made so much progress on many of our key initiatives such as facilities, strategic planning, and enhanced resource sharing. Additionally, this month we announced the availability of some of our signature grant programs, including the Summer Library Program grant.

I also had the opportunity this month to meet with other library leaders from across the country at the Knight Foundation Library Leaders Conference. It always strikes me that although our communities are unique and different, many of our struggles are the same. It's together that we'll make progress.



Highlights

- In February, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, the Supreme Court Law Library, and the Southwest Public Libraries Grove City Library.
- Mandy presented as part of a panel on changes to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) at the Knight Foundation Library Leaders Conference.
- Additional progress was made towards a new facility for the States Library's research collection in Columbus.
- Important work was done to finalize the State Library's strategic plan.



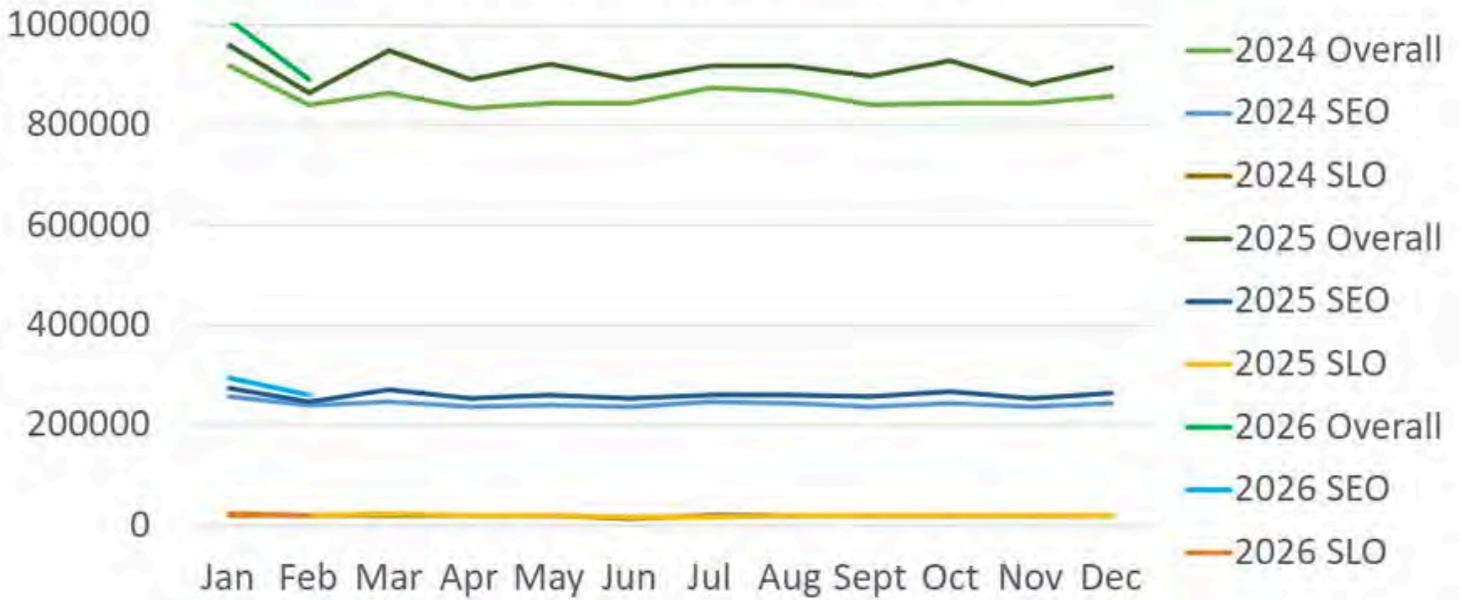
Executive Director of Sherman House Museum Michael Johnson and Decorative Arts Center of Ohio Executive Director Jason Crabill looking at Senator John Sherman items from the State Library's collection



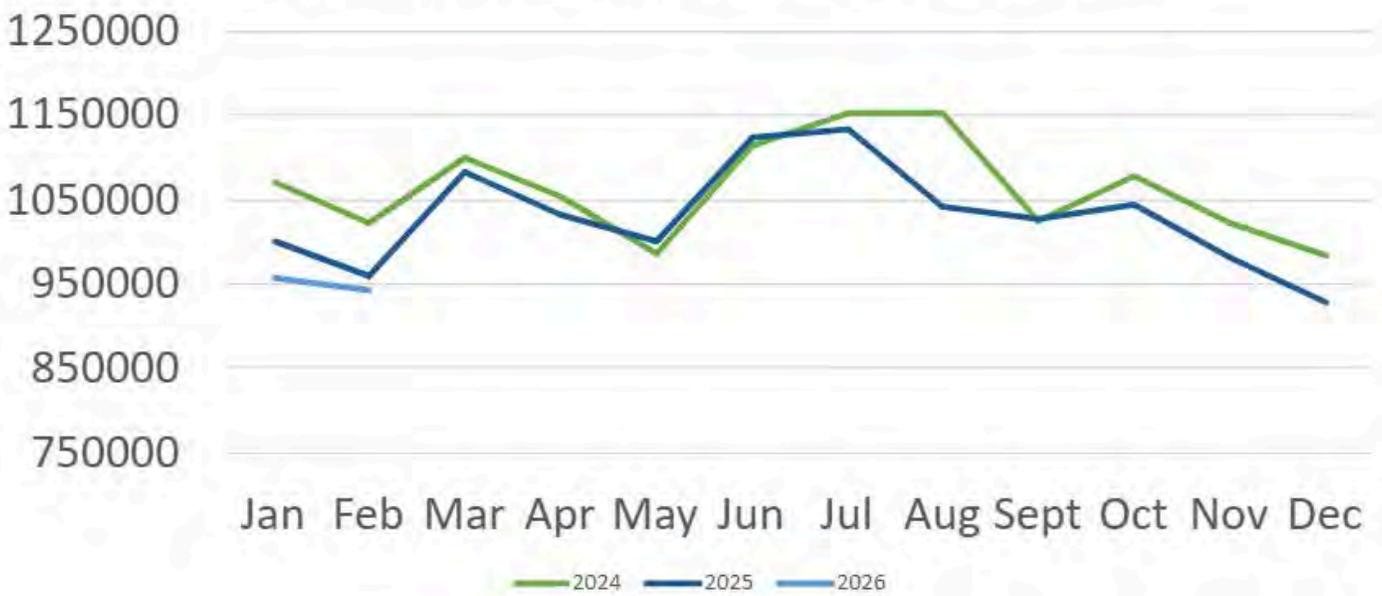
Staff of Southwest Public Libraries and State Librarian Mandy Knapp

- Mandy and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley were filmed by the America 250-Ohio Commission staff. They discussed the Arthur St. Clair letters. Arthur St. Clair was the Governor of the Northwest Territory, which now makes up Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These letters were purchased by the state legislature for the State Library in the 1870s.

Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—February 2026

Meeting with State Representative Odioso

On February 11 Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee had the honor of meeting with State Rep. Mike Odioso (R-Green Twp.) We shared the role of the State Library of Ohio with the representative and outlined the positive impact that our organization has on our state.

We also shared some of our rare materials with Rep. Odioso including including items relating to the history of his home district. It was a great meeting and we appreciate the Representative taking the time to meet with us.



Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee meeting with State Rep. Mike Odioso (R-Green Twp.)



Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley presenting to Sustainable Ohio. Many CEOs, executives, and leaders from Ohio environmental and recycling companies were in attendance.

Outreach presentations

This month Library Services staff did multiple presentations for state agencies, non-profits, and other groups. We presented to Sustainable Ohio (a non-profit connected to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency), the Ohio Department of Health leadership team, the staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Capital Chapter, sharing our story and resources available from the State Library.

Library Programs & Development—February 2026



On February 19, library consultants Jeff Laser (left, background), Erin Kelsey, and Katy Hite worked with staff at Wright Memorial Public Library on a future-focused activity as part of the State Library's strategic planning process.

Guiding Ohio Online

Applications are now open for the State Library's [Guiding Ohio Online LSTA Grant](#). This initiative allows public libraries serving rural populations to hire a dedicated technology trainer as an independent contractor, serving in either a full- or part-time capacity. Technology trainers can assist with computer instruction, technology-focused community outreach, one-on-one instruction, and other technology-related duties.

LSTA funding covers 75% of the project costs; the remaining 25% must come from a local cash match. The grant period runs from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Applications are due on March 22, and application drafts can be submitted for feedback by March 11.

State Library consultants will host a [drop-in office hour](#) on March 11 at noon to answer questions about the program. Questions regarding LSTA grants can also be sent to LSTA@library.ohio.gov at any time.

Summer Food Service Program

Many libraries in Ohio and around the USA participate in the [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP, now branded as SUN Meals), a USDA-funded program that provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need.

In 2025, 176 Ohio library locations served as SUN Meals sites. This is up from 152 library sites in 2024 and is the highest-ever number of Ohio library sites participating in SFSP. 12.3% of all Ohio SFSP sites in 2025 were library sites. This is the highest-ever proportion of libraries to all other sites.

ODL By the Numbers

Let's take a deeper dive into the Ohio Digital Library (ODL) for the month of February:

Total checkouts:

888,686 (1,896,955 YTD)

The audiobook format has a slight edge over ebook: 393.5K vs. 392.7K, respectively.

Support:

102 support tickets were submitted and answered in February.

Most popular book title:

The Perfect Divorce, by Jeneva Rose (audiobook)

Most popular magazine title:

The New Yorker

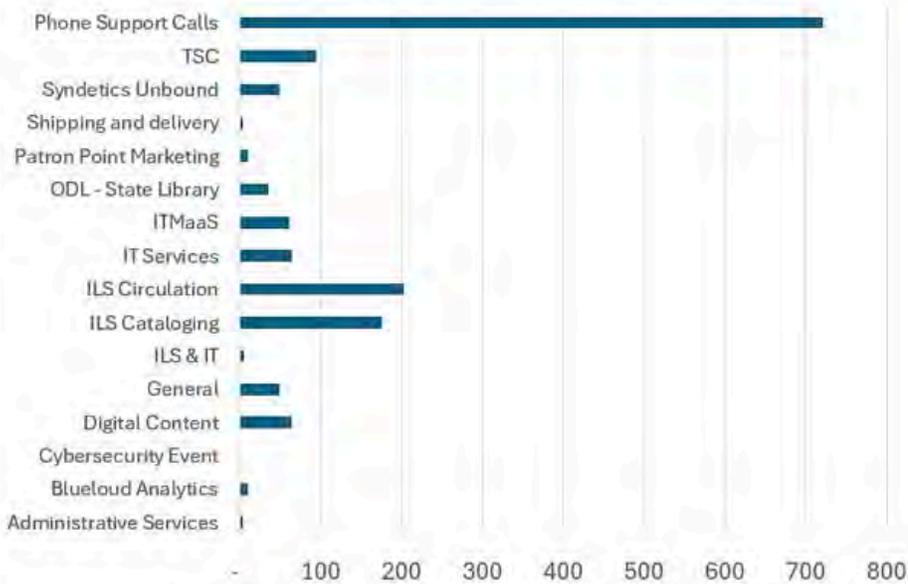
Curious about what's being checked out? Take a look at the [real-time checkouts and holds](#).

This was the fifth summer that at least one out of every ten SFSP sites in Ohio was a public library.

Libraries and SUN Meals are a great fit. [Learn how to become a SUN Meals site or support SUN Meals sites in your area](#). Contact Library Consultant [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with questions.

SEO Service Center—February 2026

SEO Service Center Support Tickets and Calls for February 2026



Quick Takeaways:

- Phone Support Calls (722) dominate overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 379) represents a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (127) and TSC (94) continue to be significant service drivers.

Key service highlights include:

- **SEO ILS staff** held an open office hour introducing the new bounced e-mail handling.
- **Three library visits** – Hardin Northern Public Library, Mechanicsburg Public Library, and Alger Public Library

For the past 30 days, the Consortium experienced significant activity:

- Over **942,768** items were circulated.
- **177,150** holds were created, and **184,683** holds were filled.
- **6,198** new users were created
- **543** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **834** support tickets were created, with **17** relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	3,661	2,099	-43%
Holds Placed	340,735	31,960	4%
App Launched	84,200	87,080	3%
Searches	92,061	86,034	-7%



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views - **1,559**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - **736**
- Patron ASL Storytime views - **4**



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (**350,137 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**2,783 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**253 emails**) and Coming of Age (**1,169 emails**) campaigns



Library Leadership Ohio Is Back!

February 1, 2026: The State Library of Ohio and OhioNet are pleased to announce Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) 2026. The Library Leadership Ohio program spans nearly 30 years and includes hundreds of alumni in a variety of positions in libraries across Ohio and across the country. LLO supports great libraries by developing great leaders. Offering exceptional programs focused on personal development and transferable leadership skills, LLO fosters connections and collaboration within Ohio's library community.

Applications Open for Guiding Ohio Online LSTA Grant

February 19, 2026: The State Library of Ohio invites eligible public libraries to apply for the Guiding Ohio Online LSTA grant—this is an opportunity for libraries to expand technology services and strengthen digital skills in their communities.

Guiding Ohio Online is a competitive LSTA grant program designed specifically for public libraries serving rural populations. The grant enables these libraries to hire a dedicated technology trainer to deliver hands-on support in communities where it is needed most.



Instagram

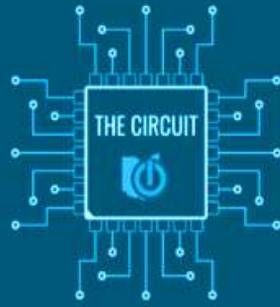
@statelibraryohio features unique items in our collections



February 13, 2026: On display now: A small group of books by or about our founding fathers...George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DU8WGjzjRiD/>



February 19, 2026: Books on display by or about U.S. Presidents 6 – 13: John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, and Millard Fillmore
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DU8WGjzjRiD/>



The OPLIN Circuit

Winter 2026

In this issue:

- Cybersecurity Planning Resources
- Wireless Statistics
- Northstar Knowledge
- Watch *Opening Doors Online?: The Basics of Web Accessibility*
- If Your Library Sends SMS Messages to Patrons...

Cybersecurity Planning Resources

Ohio Revised Code 9.64 requires public libraries to adopt a cybersecurity plan by **July 2026**. If your library is starting from scratch or reviewing a plan to ensure compliance, these resources can help:

- Watch OPLIN's webinar [Security Planning from Scratch](#) for a library-focused introduction to the new requirements, cybersecurity concepts, and tools to assist.
- Document your library's critical business data, and make secure backups of your data, credentials, and contacts. ([Slides 21-27](#) suggest what to document.)
- Request the Ohio Cyber Reserve's [Ready-Made Security Program](#) for a short starter template.
- Use a Cybersecurity Framework to organize your plan. The [NIST CSF 2.0 Quick Start Guide](#) gives actionable examples for each concept.
- List your library's existing security controls, and compare with a cybersecurity framework like [CIS 18 Controls](#) to identify areas that need additional attention.
- Write a plan that includes your library's current process, and have it approved by your Board before July 2026. Modify your plan as you add new capabilities.
- Review, revise, and repeat over time to build your library's security readiness.

OPLIN offers a [short starter guide](#). Find more [in-depth resources here](#).

Share questions or recommendations in a private library mailing list at oplinsecurity@lists.oplin.org.

Wireless Statistics

OPLIN shares some free solutions for gathering wireless statistics:

- Many models of network equipment gather wireless statistics automatically. Your library's equipment may already include this feature.
- Gather accurate wireless session counts by collecting DHCP lease logs for the wireless network and counting unique MAC addresses per day. Omit MAC addresses of library-owned devices for the most accurate count.
- Libraries that wish to purchase WhoFi WiFi Analytics can access a discounted rate through OhioNET.

Please reach out to OPLIN Support with questions, or ask peers at oplinlist@lists.oplin.org mailing list.

Northstar Knowledge

- **Did you know that Northstar Digital Literacy is available statewide once again?**

Thanks to funding coordinated by BroadbandOhio, any library patron can [use the assessments and online learning resources](#) from Northstar, and any library staff can use the digital literacy curriculum.

- **Does your library have a site contact for Northstar?**

A recent report shows that nearly 100 libraries need a new contact; we will be checking in to make sure we have the right contact for your library in the next few weeks! Want to check now? Contact Christine Morris at christine@oplin.ohio.gov

- **Do you want to learn more about Northstar, but don't have much time?**

In less than 10 minutes, you can get an overview of what Northstar can do for your library and your patrons. Check out our [YouTube video](#) now!



Did you miss it?

Opening Doors Online: The Basics of Web Accessibility

Is your library beginning to think seriously about website accessibility—but you're not sure where to begin? As awareness and legal requirements continue to grow, understanding your responsibilities is the essential first step.

In this session:

- Learn about **common pitfalls** to avoid;
- How to start building a **strong foundation** for an inclusive online experience;
- Why **commercial accessibility overlays** fall short;
- How to **approach PDFs responsibly** and effectively.

[Watch Opening Doors Online](#)



If you send SMS messages to your patrons, remember to include the library name in the text message so they know who you are.

Something like “Your hold from the Metro City Library is available”, or “Your Metropolis Public Library card is about to expire”, will make sure the patron knows which library they frequent is trying to reach them. To update the library contact who receives weekly SMS reports, please email support@oplin.ohio.gov.

Ohio Public Library Information Network

2323 W. 5th Ave, Suite 130

Columbus, Ohio 43204

editor@oplin.ohio.gov

[Unsubscribe](#)

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.D**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Institutional Membership Dues Billing

Invoices for 2026 Institutional Membership dues have been processed. We still have a few public libraries where we are working to correct inaccurate information from a few county auditors. Invoices are being sent to all public libraries in the state regardless of their past OLC membership. Most invoices were sent by the end of January, but a few were delayed because of delays in PLF and property tax revenue reports from county auditors. As of March 10, 148 library systems have paid their 2026 Institutional Membership dues.

2026 Short-Term Reserves

As has been past practice, \$500,000 from the OLC's revenue received in the first few months of 2026 will be assigned to the OLC's advisors at Morgan Stanley to invest in short-term investments. Based on advice from OLC's investment advisor and consistent with our investment policy, some will be invested in CDs and some will be deposited into our short-term account to produce a higher yield when the cash is needed.

OLC Employee Benefits

As of March 1, the following employee benefits were renewed:

- Health: renewed with Medical Mutual Insurance at a 23% increase in premiums (OLC pays 90% of employee premium and 80% of dependent premium, plus makes a \$1,000 contribution to each participating employee's health savings account). Four employees currently utilize OLC's health insurance.
- Dental Insurance: renewed with Ameritas Insurance with a 7% increase in premiums (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees and 90% of premium for dependents). Five employees currently utilize OLC's dental insurance.
- Vision Insurance: renewed with VSP Insurance no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees and 90% of premium for dependents). Five employees currently utilize OLC's vision insurance.
- Life Insurance: renewed with OneAmerica American United Life Insurance Company with no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees).
- Long-Term Disability Insurance: renewed with Hartford Insurance with no change in premium (OLC pays 100% of premium for employees).

OLC Staff Notes

My 12th Anniversary on the OLC staff was on Feb. 12.

Trustee Dinners/Lunch

This spring, OLC will have regional trustee dinners/lunch. These are meetings throughout the state for public library trustees and administrators. The events will focus on OLC's PR Campaign and provide a venue for library trustees and administrators to share information and ideas with their counterparts throughout the region.

Date	2026 Locations	
Apr. 9	SW Ohio – MidPointe Library, West Chester	Lunch
Apr. 16	NW Ohio – Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	Dinner
Apr. 30	SE Ohio – Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	Dinner
May 7	NE Ohio – Embassy Suites, Independence	Dinner

Activities

Activities since the Jan. 16 Board meeting include:

- Jan. 16 Meeting w/Dr. Howard Fleeter & Assoc.
- Jan. 20 OLC Staff Meeting
Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Meeting w/ OLC Board Chair
- Jan. 23 Gov. DeWine Press Conference
- Jan. 26 Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Meeting w/TLA
- Jan. 28 OLC PR Campaign Meeting
OLC Staff Meeting
Special Virtual Meeting for Library Directors & FOs
- Jan. 29 Meeting w/ OLC Board Chair
OLC GRC Meeting
- Jan. 30 Meeting w/Rep. Manning
Meeting w/Bricker
Meeting w/Metro Library Directors
- Feb. 2 OLC Staff Meeting
Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
OLC PR Campaign Meeting
- Feb. 3 Meeting w/Midwest Tape/hoopla
Meeting w/Stifel
- Feb. 4 House Local Gov. Committee
House Ways & Means Committee
Meeting w/CCAO
- Feb. 5 OTA Winter Conference
- Feb. 6 Meeting w/North Hill Consulting
- Feb. 9 OLC Staff Meeting
OLC PR Campaign Meeting
Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Meeting w/LFG on OLC Health Insurance
- Feb. 10 SLO Strategic Planning
ICLAE Meeting
- Feb. 11 House Ways & Means Committee
Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
OLC PR Campaign Meeting
- Feb. 12 Kalahari Site Visit
- Feb. 13 Meeting w/School Principals Association
OLC Connects Meeting
- Feb. 16 Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
- Feb. 17 House Technology & Innovation Committee
Meeting w/Rep. Roemer
OLC PR Campaign Meeting

	Meeting w/Small Libraries Division Action Council
	Meeting w/Vista Cova on OLC Strategic Planning
Feb. 18	House Local Government Committee
	House Rules Committee
	House Judiciary Committee
	House Ways & Means Committee
	Sunset Review Committee
Feb. 19	Meeting w/OSBA
	Meeting w/State Librarian
	Meeting w/OLC Board Chair
Feb. 20	ETM Meeting
	Meeting w/BASA
Feb. 23	OLC Staff Meeting
	OLC Strategic Planning
	OLC PR Campaign Meeting
	Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Feb. 24	House Technology & Innovation Committee
	Media Call w/Cleveland.com
	Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Feb. 25	House Judiciary Committee
	House Ways & Means Committee
Feb. 26	OLC Strategic Planning
	Meeting w/Amazon Business
Feb. 27	Media Interview w/Statehouse News Bureau
	Meeting w/BroadbandOhio
Mar. 2	OLC Staff Meeting
	Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting
Mar. 3	House Technology & Innovation Committee
	House Finance Committee
	Meeting w/Rep. Daniels
	Meeting w/Rep. Kishman
	OLC Legislative Day Prep Webinar
	Meeting w/INFOhio
Mar. 4	House Judiciary Committee
	House Local Government Committee
	House Session
Mar. 5	Meeting w/DPIL of Ohio
	Meeting w/Vorys (OLC Legal Counsel)
	Meeting w/Sen. Manchester
	Meeting w/Metro Library Lobbyist
Mar. 7	OLC Trustee Workshop
Mar. 9	OLC Staff Meeting
	Coalition Steering Comm. Meeting

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.1**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal
Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ODT Posts March 2026 PLF Distribution

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the March 2026 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$40,419,668 – which is \$393,641 (or +0.98%) above 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 February 2026 came in \$3.3 million or 0.2% above estimate. This means the total GRF tax receipts to-date for FY 2026 are \$648.8 million or 3.3% more than expected. State revenues are continuing to exceed expectations as we enter the final third of FY26.

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

Pending Legislation

House Bill 137 & HB 466

House Bill (HB) 137, sponsored by Rep. Brian Lorenz (R-Powell), presents a serious threat to Ohio's public libraries by granting sole authority to a library taxing authority to decide whether a library may place a property tax levy on the ballot. If passed, HB 137 would effectively silence both public libraries and local voters by removing the public's right to vote on a levy. HB 137 passed the House Local Government Committee on Oct. 29, 2025. At this point, the legislation has not been placed on the floor calendar for a House vote.

HB 466, sponsored by Reps. Beth Lear (R-Galena) and Kevin Ritter (R-Marietta), is like HB 137 which specifies that any local taxing authority whose membership includes nonelected officers to obtain approval by the elected body (taxing authority) before submitting a property tax to voters. This bill recently received its first hearing in the House Local Government Committee on March 4.

House Bill 314 – Disruptive Public Records Requests

House Bill (HB) 314, sponsored by Reps. Dani Isaacsohn (D-Cincinnati) and Sharon Ray (R-Wadsworth), provides a judicial framework for responding to public records requests that are deemed to be harassing or disruptive.

The legislation empowers public offices and people responsible for public records to seek a court order to limit or deny a public records request where the 1) requester submits multiple requests to the same office, and 2) based on the volume or repeated nature of the requests

6.E.1: Government and Legal Services Report

is determined to harass or disrupt the essential functions of the public office. Exceptions under the bill are provided to legitimate requesters such as journalists.

Additionally, HB 314 permits a public office to engage with a private contractor to respond to voluminous public records requests on behalf of the public office while allowing the cost of the contractor's services to be included in calculating the cost of providing the copy of the public record. The bill is currently being heard in the House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 413 – Local Government Database

House Bill (HB) 413, sponsored by Reps. Tom Young (R-Washington Twp) and Bob Peterson (R-Sabina), seeks to establish the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and requires certain political subdivisions, including public libraries, to participate.

Currently, the Treasurer of State operates the State and Local Government Expenditure Database known as "Ohio Checkbook". This bill splits that database into two separate databases, the State Government Expenditure Database and the Local Government Expenditure Database and requires both databases to include revenue information. OLC submitted testimony highlighting concerns with funding and the possibility of cybersecurity issues. The bill is currently receiving hearings in the House Technology and Innovation Committee.

House Bill 420 – Eliminates Continuing Levies

House Bill (HB) 420, sponsored by Reps. Gary Click (R-Vickery) and Bernard Willis (R-Springfield), seeks to eliminate continuing term levies after tax year 2029. The bill allows any continuing levy to be renewed for a specific period of years and prohibits any new continuing levies after the bill's effective date. It is currently being heard in the House Ways and Means Committee.

House Bill 422 – Voter Approval Thresholds

House Bill (HB) 422, sponsored by Reps. Gary Click (R-Vickery) and Jonathan Newman (R-Troy), aims to adjust voter approval thresholds for new levies based on the amount of millage being considered.

- Levies under 1 mill will continue to require a simple majority.
- Levies between 1 and 1.9 mills will require a 60% majority.
- Levies that are 2 mills or more will require a 66% approval.

HB 422 has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and has not received any hearings.

House Bill 574 – Consolidation Pilot Program

House Bill (HB) 574, sponsored by Reps. Jack Daniels (R-New Franklin) and Mike Dovilla (R-Berea), appropriates \$25 million to encourage the merger of subdivisions under a Policial Subdivision Consolidation Incentive Grant Pilot Program. Based on a formula included in the bill, a city, village or township could receive up to \$2.5 million for a merger. All other political subdivisions, including libraries, could receive a grant for up to \$1 million for a merger. HB 574 received its first hearing on Feb. 18 in the House Local Government Committee.

House Bill 583 – Online Library Databases

House Bill (HB) 583, sponsored by Reps. Kevin Ritter (R-Marietta) and Jonathan Newman (R-Troy), provides compliance requirements for entities that provide digital or online library database resources to a public school, public library, or state agency.

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Under the bill, only providers that meet the compliance requirements can be utilized to offer resources to minor children. In addition, the bill sets a procedure under which a public school, library, or state agency must notify a provider of a violation and issue penalties if the provider does not comply. HB 583 received its first hearing on March 3 in the House Finance Committee.

Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Property Taxes

In response to the Citizens for Property Tax Reform initiative, OLC and other local governments have been meeting to organize opposition against the amendment should it make it to the ballot. More information will be discussed at the Board Meeting.

OLC Library Legislative Day (March 18)

Library Legislative Day is next week on Wednesday, March 18 at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. More details will be discussed at the board meeting.

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.2**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Professional Development
Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Laurie Miller**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2026 OLC Convention and Expo – Search. Create. Inspire. – Oct. 21-23, 2026

- Working with Fern again this year. Revised floor plan for R@H app for booth sales. Redesigning OLC Connects to one large interactive booth designed to increase visibility and engagement for Divisions and Committees instead of separate tables.
- Reached out to General Session speakers, nothing confirmed yet.
- Committee chairs and members have all been selected and introductions via Zoom happening this month.
- The Program Committee is judging the submissions this month. They will meet in person at OLC in April to discuss results. There were 88 one-hour programs submitted and 6 poster sessions.
- Registration and hotel information will be on the website soon.
- Working on getting Exhibitor and Sponsorship opportunities into GrowthZone for registration this year.
- Searching for a vendor for onsite bookstore. Received some suggestions from C&E Leadership.

Meetings Participation

- Technical Services Division Meeting – Jan. 21
- OSAP Virtual Education – Jan. 23
- Digital & Media Services Division Meeting – Jan. 26 and Feb. 3
- OLC DEI Committee Meeting – Feb. 5
- C&E Program Committee Meeting – Feb. 26
- Outreach Coffee Chat Feb. 27
- Adult & Reference Services Division Meeting – Mar. 12

2026 Events	Date	Location	Attendance
Special Virtual Meeting for Directors & FOs	Jan. 28	Virtual	284
Membership Meet-up	Feb. 9	Virtual	42
Teen Services Talk	Feb. 10	Virtual	31
Outreach Coffee Chat	Feb. 27	Virtual	30
Preparing for Legislative Day Webinar	Mar. 3	Virtual	183
IT Division “Rack’side Chat”	Mar. 6	Virtual	24
Library Trustee Workshop	Mar. 7	OLC/Virtual	59
Library Legislative Day	Mar. 18	Renaissance Columbus Downtown	140

6.E.2: Professional Development Report

CPIM – Public Library Fiscal Officer Conf.	Mar. 26-27	Embassy Suites Dublin	112
Membership Meet-up	Apr. 6	Virtual	8
Library Trustees Lunch (SW)	Apr. 9	MidPointe Library, West Chester	4
Library Trustees Dinner (NW)	Apr. 16	Stone Ridge Golf Club, Bowling Green	3
HR Hybrid Workshop 101	Apr. 28	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Library Trustees Dinner (East)	Apr. 30	Guernsey County Library, Cambridge	0
Library Trustees Dinner (NE)	May 7	Embassy Suites Independence	4
Virtual Mentorship Series #1	May 13	Virtual	0
Teen Services Talk	May 14	Virtual	5
New Directors Workshop Series 1 of 4	May TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
IT Division “Rack’side Chat”	Jun. 5	Virtual	0
Outreach Coffee Chat	Jun. 12	Virtual	3
Ballot Issues Workshop #1	Jun. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
New Directors Workshop Series 2 of 4	Jun. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Virtual Mentorship Series #2	Jul. 15	Virtual	0
New Directors Workshop Series 3 of 4	Jul. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
HR Hybrid Workshop 102	Aug. 4	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Teen Services Talk	Aug. 12	Virtual	4
New Directors Workshop Series 4 of 4	Aug. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Outreach and Special Services Retreat	Aug. 14	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Library Fiscal Officer 102	Aug. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
IT Division “Rack’side Chat”	Sept. 4	Virtual	0
Safety & Security Conference	Sept. 11	OCLC Conference Center	Not Open
Virtual Mentorship Series #3	Sept. 16	Virtual	0
Outreach Coffee Chat	Sept. 25	Virtual	2
2026 Convention & Expo	Oct. 21-23	Kalahari, Sandusky	Not Open
Ballot Issues Workshop #2	Nov. TBD	OLC/Virtual	Not Open
Virtual Mentorship Series #4	Nov. 11	Virtual	0
Teen Services Talk	Nov. 16	Virtual	4
Planning & Leadership Conference	Nov. TBD	Virtual	Not Open
IT Division “Rack’side Chat”	Dec. 4	Virtual	0

6.E.2: Professional Development Report

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.3**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Communications Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Angie Jacobsen**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Statewide Survey and PR Campaign

On Feb. 24, OLC released results from a statewide poll by Public Opinion Strategies poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, showing strong bipartisan support for Ohio's public libraries. The survey highlights that voters consider library services essential to daily life and consistently rank libraries among the most trusted and highly valued public services in the state.

The findings underscore strong public appreciation for library services and broad agreement across party lines that libraries are a worthwhile public investment. While many residents initially have limited understanding of township and library funding, the research shows that once Ohioans learn these services rely on locally approved property taxes, strong majorities support maintaining that local funding.

The full [press release](#), a [memo from Public Opinion Strategies](#) and an [executive summary](#) of the findings are available on the [OLC website](#).

This positive momentum comes at an ideal time, with Library Legislative Day scheduled for Mar. 18. The poll results have already generated significant media coverage from outlets such as:

- [Hannah News Service](#)
- [Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- [Spectrum News](#)
- [The Courier](#)

To help libraries share this positive message locally, OLC released a PR toolkit on Mar. 3. The toolkit includes customizable handouts, a sample elevator speech, sample letters to the editor, and additional advocacy resources. More pieces will be added in the coming weeks. Access to the PR toolkit is limited to library directors through the [Member Info Hub](#).

Additional Media Coverage:

On Jan. 16, OLC issued a press release announcing the new Chair of the OLC Board. The announcement received local media coverage:

- [MCLS Director Appointed to Chair Ohio Library Council](#)
WHIZ News
- [Muskingum County Library director to lead Ohio Library Council board](#)
Zanesville Times Recorded

Legislative Day

Legislative Day continues to be promoted via *This Week*, *Access*, and OLC website. Resources and advocacy tools for the event have been added to the [OLC website](#). Collateral materials are being developed for the day of the event.

6.E.3: Communications Report

Convention and Expo

Information continues to be added to the [OLC website](#) about the 2026 Convention and Expo. The deadline for the call for programs was extended to Feb. 13. Exhibitor information (including the Early-Bird booth rate) will be added to the website and sent via email. A promotional postcard will be mailed in June.

Trustee Events

The Library Trustee Workshop and Trustee Dinners/Lunch have been promoted using targeted e-mails, *This Week*, *Access* and the OLC website.

Division/Committee Projects

- Member Spotlight articles for the Membership Committee ran in the Jan. 28 and Feb. 18 issues of *Access* and the [OLC website](#). The new Membership Meet-Ups were also promoted in *Access* and the OLC website.
- A call for a Chair for the Safety and Security Conference was issued in *Access*.
- Teen Services Division hosted a Teen Service Talk to discuss summer programming ideas on Feb. 10 (31 people registered for the online discussion). The next Teen Services Talk is planned for May 14. Teen Services Division also sent an e-newsletter to division members on Feb. 3.
- Customer Service & Support Staff Division sent an e-newsletter to division members on Jan. 20.
- Articles on the OLC New Member Referral Program and Individual membership renewal were included in *Access* and the OLC website. Instructions were also included about how to select Divisions in the new Member Info Hub.

Website

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

1. Jobs
2. Calendar
3. Poll results: New research shows Ohioans strongly value local library services — and support local funding that keeps them strong
4. Convention and Expo
5. 2026 CPIM - Public Library Fiscal Officer Conference
6. Legislative Day
7. Library Trustee Workshop
8. Webinars & Online Reference Training
9. Library Funding/PLF
10. Advocacy Tools for Libraries

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **6.E.4**

MEETING DATE: **March 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Membership Services Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Jeanine D'Andrea**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

2026 Individual Membership

As of Feb. 28, there was a total of 1887 members as compared to 1890 on Feb. 28, 2025. There are currently 1603 renewals, 253 new and 31 Lifetime. A third and final membership renewal was emailed on Feb. 25 to 726 members who have not currently renewed for 2026. They were also notified through an *Access* article that this would be their last edition if they do not renew.

The Membership Committee met via Zoom on Jan. 29 and again on Feb. 19. Agenda items included 2026 timeline; statistics comparison; new member 2nd drip email, renewal emails and *Access* article assignments.

An article was published in the Feb. 11 edition of *Access* explaining the process of selecting an unlimited number of divisions to maximize membership benefits.

New Member Referral Program

The New Member Referral Program closed on Feb. 1. OLC received 11 new members who joined through the program. Kathy Long, Tuscarawas County Public Library will receive \$50 in credit toward any OLC Professional Development event in 2026 for referring new member Erin Snider.

Membership Meet-Ups

The first Membership Meet-Up was held on Feb. 9 as a free, 30-minute virtual event designed to help library professionals connect, learn and get the most out of their OLC Individual Membership. Bradley Kuykendall and Jennifer Buch from the OLC Membership Committee hosted an engaging overview of how OLC works for you. There were 42 people registered. A second Membership Meet-Up is scheduled for April 6 with Jennifer Buch and Jon Keppel giving an overview of how members can get involved in OLC.

Nominations and Elections

All division coordinators were sent a roster of members from their unit along with a list of any members who sent in a membership participation form requesting to serve, to assist them with identifying potential candidates for election. Slates of candidates are due to OLC by April 1. Staff will work directly with these coordinators to answer questions, send broadcast emails and assist them with the nomination process.

Awards and Honors

The Awards and Honors Committee met on Feb. 25. Discussion included submissions to date; follow-up from Convention interest; scoring rubric for nomination review; actionable ideas from Leadership conference brainstorming. Promotional articles will continue to be included in *Access* through April. The next meeting is scheduled via Zoom on May 20.

6.E.4: Membership Services Report