Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.: **5.H.1** MEETING DATE: **Nov. 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **Government and Legal Services Report** SUBMITTED BY: **Jay Smith**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PLF Update

The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the November 2026 PLF distribution of $41,253,002 – which is $393,681 (or + 0.96%) above ODT's original estimate issued in July 2025 and ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2025. The PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2026 year-to-date total is $443,451,027.

According to the Office of Budget and Management's (OBM), the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts for October 2026 exceeded estimates by $146 million or 5.8% above estimate. So far for FY27, state tax collections are $376.7 million or 3.7% more than expected.

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 November 2026 can be found on the OLC website.

Governor and Statewide Races

On Tuesday Nov. 3, Dr. Amy Acton became Ohio's first woman elected governor and the first Democrat elected Governor in 20 years. Following her election, Acton addressed supporters mentioning her campaign was a movement by and for the people, and Ohioans have chosen unity and decency over division and hate. She will take office on Jan. 11, 2027, with David Pepper as Lieutenant Governor.

For other statewide races, Keith Faber (R) has conceded to John Kulewicz (D) for Attorney General, Robert Spraque (R) has conceded to Allison Russo (D) for Secretary of State, Annette Blackwell (D) appears to have lost to Frank LaRose (R) for Auditor, and Jay Edwards (R) also appears to have lost to Seth Walsh (D) for Treasurer.

U.S. Senate

In the U.S. Senate race between Sherrod Brown and incumbent Sen. Jon Husted, Brown won the election, which also saw Democratic candidates flip Republican seats in other states including Iowa, North Carolina, Kansas, Maine, South Carolina and Texas. As of Wednesday morning, Democrats now hold a 53-42 majority in the U.S. Senate. Brown will now serve the remaining two years of the original Vance term through January 2029.

U.S. House

Regarding Ohio Congressional races, we saw three seats flip from Republican to Democrat. This included Democrat Don Leonard defeating incumbent Mike Carey (R-Columbus), Kristina Knickerbocker defeating incumbent Mike Turner (R-Dayton), and Brian Poindexter defeating incumbent Max Miller (R-Parma). In addition, incumbent Democrat Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) defeated her challenger Derrik Merrin in a race that wasn't called

until the early hours of Wednesday morning. Democrats now occupy eight congressional seats while Republicans occupy seven. Nationally, Democrats now hold the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ohio Supreme Court
In the Ohio Supreme Court elections, Democrat Justice Brunner and Democrat Judge Marilyn Zayas appear to have won their elections, moving the court to a 5-2 Republican Majority.

Issue 3 Voter Photo ID
The voter photo ID amendment passed easily to codify current law into the Constitution.

137th Ohio General Assembly
Republicans will continue to lead both chambers in the next General Assembly; however, the House majority now falls below the 60 votes needed to override a veto without Democratic help. The Senate majority continues to stay above the override line.

In the Ohio House, Democrats needed to pick up six seats and appear to have flipped ten Republican seats to break the supermajority. The five defeated Republican incumbents include Reps. Mike Dovilla, Andrea White, Brian Lorenz, Tom Young, and Jim Thomas. The other five open Republican seats came from the 31st, 35th, 39th, 44th, and 52nd districts. In other districts likely headed to a recount, Reps. Haraz Ghanbari and Cindy Abrams lead narrowly pending final results. The projected Republican majority now appears to be 55-44.

In the Ohio Senate, Democrat Stacie Baker defeated Sen. Michele Reynolds in SD-3, and Mike Roberto beat Rep. Steve Demetriou in SD-27 allowing Democrats to gain two additional seats. Republicans now hold a 22-11 majority.

In next year's General Assembly, a Senate-passed bill can still clear the override bar, but any override now needs Democratic votes in the House.
Click the following link for preliminary election results.
https://www.olc.org/assets/pdf/Prelim+Results/

Lame Duck
Republicans still hold the supermajorities until the new General Assembly begins in January, and Governor DeWine still holds the power of the pen. We do expect the current General Assembly to move priority bills before adjourning in December. This may include proposals floated this week to shift agency rulemaking authority toward the legislature (HB 1024, HB 11).

Next year's state biennial budget is a new negotiation. The Acton administration will introduce the FY2028–2029 operating budget early next year. A new Governor has until March 15 to introduce a budget, but they will be starting from the budget framework that the DeWine Administration will leave behind.

Going forward bipartisan coalitions will likely be stronger. With the override math changed, the bills that pass in 2027 will be those that can attract Democratic votes in the House and a signature from the Governor.

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OLC Update Webinar

On Thursday November 19 at 2pm, OLC will be hosting an “Election Recap, and Lame Duck Update” via Zoom. Please use the following link to register for this free webinar.
https://members.olc.org/event-calendar/Details/election-recap-and-lame-duck-update-webinar-1987982?sourceTypeId=Hub

The webinar will be recorded and available in the Member Info Hub for those who are unable to participate.
https://members.olc.org/MIC/Login

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