

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.