

**FY20-21 State Budget Proposal
HB 166 Talking Points on “As Introduced” Version**

**2019 OLC Legislative Day
April 9, 2019**

Governor DeWine recently released his two-year state budget proposal for FY20-21. The proposal has been introduced as House Bill (HB) 166 and is sponsored by Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) who serves as chairman of the House Finance Committee. Below is a short summary of the provisions impacting public libraries and talking points to use with legislators.

PLF

- The “As Introduced” version of HB 166 maintains the Public Library Fund (PLF) at 1.68% of the state’s General Revenue Fund (GRF) – it does NOT reduce it to the 1.66% rate that is set in permanent law.
- The Governor estimates natural growth in state revenues will result in the PLF distribution increasing by \$20 million in FY20. However, this assumes no additional tax cuts or other major tax reform changes being added to the bill that will impact the GRF.
- We thank Gov. Mike DeWine for highlighting the work and importance of Ohio’s public libraries in his first state budget proposal.
- Investing in Ohio’s public libraries is critical as the usage and demand for our services is growing and broadening – especially in the areas of early childhood education, broadband connectivity and workforce development.
- Making public libraries a priority in this budget and maintaining the PLF at 1.68% is a step in the right direction.
- However, state funding for public libraries has been cut by more than \$113 million since 2001 – a 23% reduction in funding over the past 17 years with no adjustment for inflation.
- The PLF percentage has been reduced since 2008 and has not fully recovered from the recession.
- In addition, there are still several unknowns in the budget process between now and June 30 that could impact the GRF base and ultimately reduce the PLF.

Urge legislators to Restore the PLF!

Ask members of the Ohio House to support an amendment!

Early Childhood Education/Wraparound Services

- Only 40% of Ohio’s kindergarteners come to the classroom ready to learn.
- Only 38.7% of Ohio’s 4th graders in public schools scored “proficient” on a national reading test.

Education is at the heart of public libraries – whether it is early childhood literacy like Ready to Read and Ready for Kindergarten programs or wraparound services like Homework Help Centers and Summer Food Service Programs – Ohio’s public libraries are here to serve before, during and after K-12. When schools are closed, public libraries are open.

Technology/Broadband Access/2020 Census

- Over 24 million Americans lack access to broadband and almost a third of Ohioans still lack access to this basic utility.
- High speed internet is vital in today's world for purposes of a modern economy, economic opportunity and educational achievement.
- The 2020 Census will be conducted primarily online for the first time. Children and seniors are at high-risk for being undercounted and billions of dollars in federal funding is on the line. We need to ensure all Ohioans are counted – including those without access to the internet.

Public libraries play an essential role in bridging the digital divide in Ohio with high-speed internet access, mobile WiFi hot spots, technology classes, drop-in computer labs, laptop lending and more.

Public libraries will serve a critical role as primary points of service for Ohioans who need help accessing the online census.

Workforce Development

- Only 43% of Ohio's adult workforce has a postsecondary degree or credential.
- 65% of grade school students will have a job in the future that doesn't exist today.
- The changing landscape of Ohio's workforce needs will require continuous upskilling and reskilling.

Public libraries provide lifelong learning opportunities, employment search assistance and online educational courses for job seekers and students.

Ohio's public libraries educate today's workforce for tomorrow's careers.