

## Just the Facts...

- Ohio's public libraries have the HIGHEST USE per capita in the nation with more than 8.4 million cardholders.
- State funding for public libraries has been cut by more than \$113 million since 2001 — a 23% reduction in funding over the last 17 years with no adjustment for inflation.
- In 2008, the General Assembly established the Public Library Fund (PLF) at 2.22% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Since that time, the percentage has been reduced. The PLF is currently set at 1.68%.
- State funding for public libraries will be automatically cut again on July 1, 2019. Gov. DeWine is proposing to maintain the PLF at 1.68% for FY 20-21.
- 20% of Ohio's public library systems rely solely on the PLF for their primary source of funding and DO NOT have a local property tax levy (50 of the 251).
- The PLF makes up an extremely small portion of the overall budget. In FY18, the PLF distribution of \$385 million made up less than one percent (.55%) of FY18 All Funds Expenditures of roughly \$70 billion.
- 48% of the total funding for Ohio's public libraries comes from the state through the PLF.
- Ohio's public libraries provide a strong Return on Investment. Libraries return \$5 in economic value to Ohioans for every \$1 they spend.
- The only primary sources of revenue public libraries have are state funding and/or a local property tax levy. Unlike other local governments, libraries DO NOT have the authority to raise funds locally through sales tax or income tax. Also, libraries DO NOT receive casino revenue.
- Public library usage and services are growing and broadening. The need and demand for our services and the expectations of Ohioans related to technology, broadband access, educational services and workforce development has increased, but **library funding has been cut since 2008** and has **not fully recovered from the recession**. Now is the time to restore the Public Library Fund.

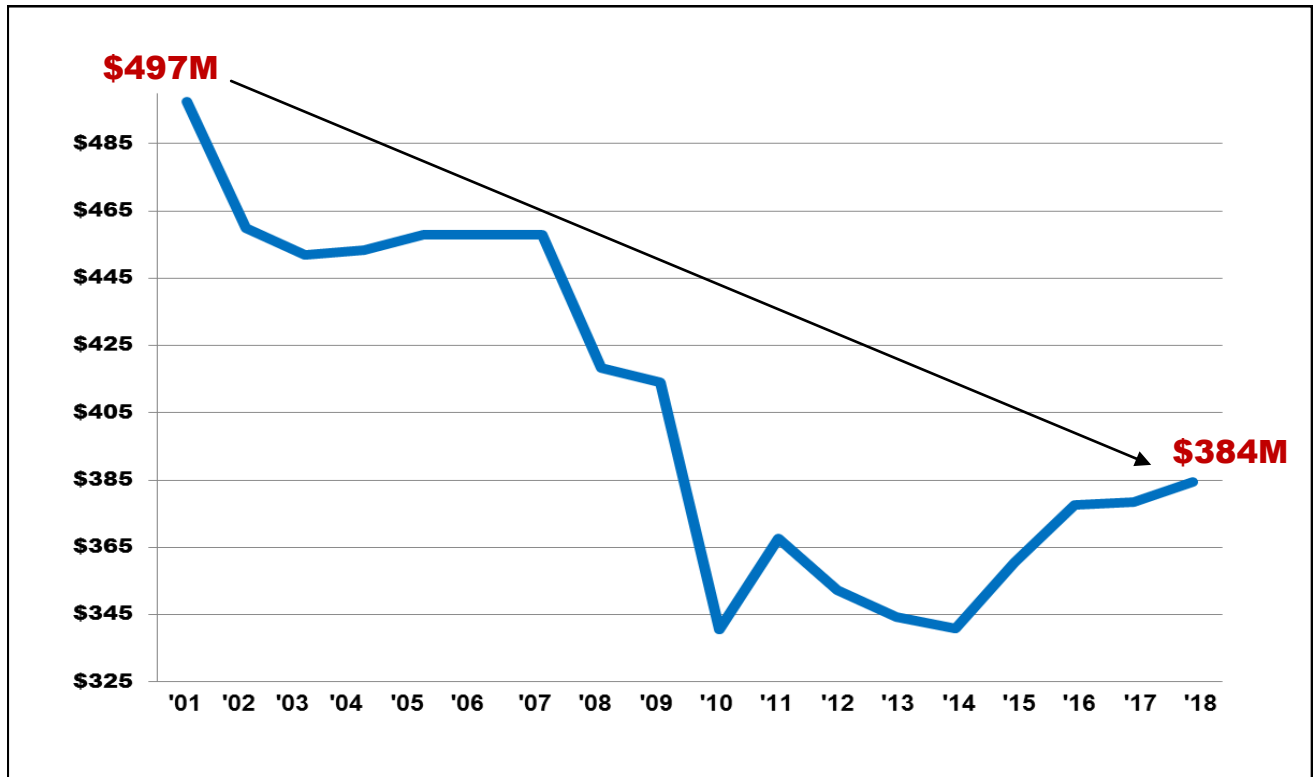
*Ohio's public libraries have not recovered from the recession:*

- Make public libraries a priority in the state budget.
- Restore the PLF to our 2008 levels of funding.
- Restore and reset the PLF language in permanent law.

**Fiscal Year Public Library Fund (PLF) Distributions in Millions**

Fiscal Year	PLF Percentage of GRF Taxes	PLF Distributions
2008	2.22%	\$418.2
2009	2.22%	\$414.2
2010	1.97%	\$340.6
2011	1.97%	\$367.6
2012	Freeze with 95%	\$352.2
2013	Freeze with 95%	\$344.3
2014	1.66%	\$341.0
2015	1.66%	\$360.5
2016	1.7%	\$377.6
2017	1.7%	\$378.5
2018	1.68%	\$384.6

**Ohio's Public Library Fund**



State funding for public libraries has been cut by more than \$113 million since 2001 — a 23% reduction in funding over the last 17 years with no adjustment for inflation.