

## HB 33 – Ohio Senate Talking Points

On April 26, the Ohio House of Representatives passed their version of the state budget bill, House Bill (HB) 33, by a vote of 77-19. After passage by the House, the bill now moves to the Ohio Senate where budget hearings have already begun.

We know there is a tight timeline for the Senate to craft their version of the state budget. The first round of amendments in the Senate are due by Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We are encouraging library directors, fiscal officers and boards of trustees to contact your state senator(s). At this point, we are halfway through the budget process and a lot can change between now and the end of June.

Please utilize the following talking points and action items with your Senator:

### Maintain PLF Funding at a Minimum of 1.70% of the GRF

- The House's version of HB 33 continues to recommend funding the Public Library Fund (PLF) at the same level as proposed in the Governor's proposal at 1.70% in permanent law.
- ***Urge your state senator to support funding the PLF at a minimum of 1.70%. Please ask that they support increasing the PLF should the Senate make reductions to the state's General Revenue Fund, causing a reduction in library funding.***

### Support Funding for Library Facilities

- The House's version of the state budget does not contain any specific funding for public library facilities.
- ***Ask your Senator to support public libraries with funding to update critical needs such as roofs, elevators, HVAC systems, flooring and security systems. Share specific examples from your library – cost to fix elevators, roof replacement, HVAC replacement, security system updates, etc.***

### Support Increasing the Competitive Bidding Threshold for Public Libraries

- The House's version of HB 33 increases library competitive bidding thresholds from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and includes a provision to increase the threshold by 3% annually after calendar year 2024. Competitive bidding for public libraries under Ohio Revised Code Section 3375.41 has not been updated in more than a decade. This change would give public libraries more flexibility in making improvements.
- ***Urge your state senator to maintain language added by the House to increase this competitive bidding threshold for public libraries.***

### Restore the Option for Replacement Levies

- The House's version of the state budget eliminates the authority of local governments to levy replacement property tax levies beginning in 2025. Local governments, including libraries, will still have the option to propose a renewal levy, renewal with an increase/decrease, or a new/additional levy. However, this may cause even further confusion for voters.
- ***Ask your Senator to restore this language and give libraries and local governments the option to seek replacement levies.***

Please contact Jay Smith ([jsmith@olc.org](mailto:jsmith@olc.org)), OLC Director of Government and Legal Services, with any questions or updates related to these talking points and communications with your state senator.