

# Ohio Library Funding Alert: Public Library Fund at Risk

For nearly 100 years, public libraries in Ohio have received funding from the State. Currently, it is through the Public Library Fund (PLF), which is a set percentage of the General Revenues. State funding accounts for nearly 40% of revenue for the Washington-Centerville Public Library.

This year is a biennium budget year, which means the State will be determining funding for public libraries for the next two years.

On April 1, the House budget proposal included concerning changes to library funding structures. **They will vote on this Wednesday, April 9.**

## Key points in the House proposal:

- Elimination of the Public Library Fund (PLF), which is currently protected by law
- Replacement with a line-item appropriation in the state budget
- Funding for public libraries at the same level as 25 years ago

## Impact on Washington-Centerville Public Library

The Washington-Centerville Public Library is consistently ranked among the nation's best libraries and serves as an essential community resource. The library has maintained fiscal responsibility without requesting increased local funding since 2011, despite:

- A \$27 million shortfall in state funding to Ohio libraries in 2024
- Increased community size and service demands
- Rising costs for technology, resources, and services

If implemented, these changes would significantly affect library operations, potentially impacting:

- Early literacy programs
- Digital and educational resources
- Services for adults, teens, and children
- Business resources

### **[Find Out More](#)**

For more information about how public libraries are funded in Ohio, including the Public Library Fund, go to the **[Ohio Library Council website](#)**.