

Update on Library Funding:

We are very appreciative at the Wood County District Public Library (WCDPL) for the support we receive through state funding, a local levy since 2011, and the generous support of the Friends of the Library as well as the Library Foundation. We would not be able to deliver the array of library services we currently offer without your ongoing support.

I want to share information with you about the present status of funding for Ohio's public libraries. At the state level, we are fortunate to be funded through the Public Library Fund (PLF) which receives a percentage of state revenues from the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Revenue sources for the GRF include the state personal income tax, sales and use taxes, business taxes, etc.

In July 2015, the PLF formula was increased from 1.66% to 1.7% of the GRF. This change allowed for some modest growth in dollars distributed to public libraries. Unfortunately, the governor's new budget proposal calls for reverting back to 1.66%. This would mean a cut in funds distributed to Ohio's public libraries.

Between now and the end of June, the House and Senate will be holding hearings and debate on the budget. The Ohio Library Council (OLC) will be engaging members of the Ohio General Assembly to "Protect the PLF." Locally, Ohio's public libraries have long had the support of Senator Randy Gardner - and for that we are appreciative. Senator Gardner is publicly advocating for the formula to remain at 1.7%.

We know that Ohioans value their public libraries and that public libraries create opportunities and transform lives. We remain the "People's University" where all can enter to further their lifelong learning goals. On a daily basis we serve parents as they teach their children to read, adults seeking help with resumes and applying for jobs, and students working on homework.

When you see Senator Gardner and Representative Gavarone around our community, please share your personal story about what the library means to you and your family. These local, positive conversations can make a difference in decisions made in the General Assembly.

Thank you again for your support; it is an honor to serve the Wood County community!

Michael Penrod, WCDPL Director