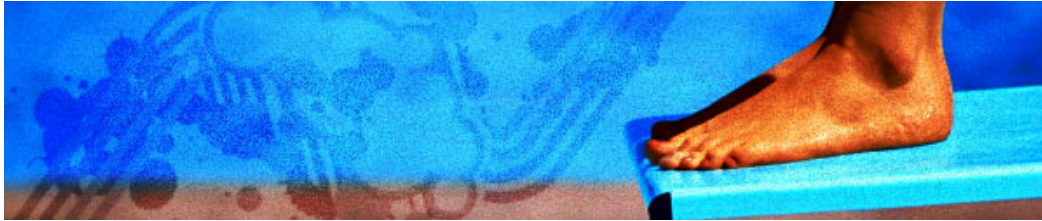


Summer 2025



With summer storms and heat advisories upon us, don't forget that you can come in and cool off at the Law Library. We have comfortable work spaces for every need, including quiet work areas, computer access, and spaces for client meetings. We have CLE opportunities in August, September, and October as well. So, when you're in court and either need to do some quick research or just take it easy and kill some time before your next meeting or hearing, come see us!



Holiday Closures

- **July 3:** Closing at noon (ahead of Red, White & BOOM!)
Also note that most courts and agencies are either closing early or not opening at all on July 3, so plan accordingly before visiting the courthouses or county offices.
- **July 4:** Closed for Independence Day
- **September 1:** Closed for Labor Day

Board Meeting

- **August 20** at noon in the library

Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Programs

- **August 6:** Adult Guardianships
- **September 10:** Pet Law
- **October 22:** Ohio Gambling Law

All CLEs take place in the Law Library's classroom from 12:15 to 1:15.

Each program has been approved for one hour of general CLE credit. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you. Click [here](#) to access the Brown Bag site for registration information and program descriptions. Keep checking the site for information on future CLEs.



Recent Reference Requests

Susanna Marlowe, Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

I am a student working for a state agency this summer. My first project is to determine why the Ohio General Assembly changed the name of the Department of Human Services to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Do you know where I could possibly get started?

**Thank you in advance,
A Legal Intern**

Dear Intern,

The best explanation is from the Ohio Legislative Services Commission's Bill Analysis of House Bill 470. This document is available on the General Assembly's [website](#). It states that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services was formed as part of a merger between the Department of Human Services and the Bureau of Employment Services on July 1, 2000, mandated by HB 470. The reason was to promote efficiencies. The bill specified that for each instance either one of the old agencies was named in the *Ohio Revised Code*, it was to be changed to the new name.

The Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

I am looking for a copy of the descent and distribution statute for intestate succession that was in effect in 1992. Is that something you have? Any guidance is appreciated.

A Local Probate Attorney

Dear Attorney,

Yes, we keep the superseded volumes of *Page's Ohio Revised Code Annotated*. Oh. Rev. Code § 2105.06 is, and was then, the section that deals with what happens when a decedent dies without a will. I will scan and email you that section from our 1994 volume. I can tell this was the current version in 1992 because the history note at the bottom of the section indicates that the legislature had not changed it since 1987.

The Reference Librarian



A Summary of Ohio's Public Library Funding and the Next State Budget

Jennifer Jones, FCLL Director

If you have followed the news about the state's new biennial budget (House Bill 96), then you might be aware of several controversial changes potentially affecting everything from Medicaid to the Cleveland Browns. As part of this budget, the public library funding method that has been in place since 2008 is changing. Ohio's public library system has benefited from state tax revenue since the 1930s, though the method of collection and distribution has varied over the decades. In many other states, public libraries receive only local funding. Yet in Ohio, most public libraries have both state and local funds available (with local funding typically coming through local levies), and many function on state funding alone.

How are Public Libraries Funded?

In 2008, the Public Library Fund (PLF) was established; it required that a percentage of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) went to the public libraries. The percentage has ranged from the initial 2.22% set in 2008 to a low of 1.66%. For the fiscal year that just ended on June 30, the amount was 1.7%. Governor DeWine had supported an increase to 1.75% for the next fiscal cycle, but the state legislature went a different route with HB 96 and overhauled the PLF. While the PLF still exists, it is now funded differently.

What's Changing?

The state will now directly appropriate a set, budgeted amount annually into the PLF, around \$480 million for FY2026 and around \$490 million for FY2027 (after over \$10 million in annual deductions to various library-related state agencies and services). Lawmakers in support of this change have argued that public library funding was subject to fluctuations and unpredictability with the previous method.

Additionally, lawmakers had tried to add language to HB96 mandating that library materials "related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression" be placed in an area "not primarily open to the view of persons under the age of eighteen." This mandate was vetoed by DeWine, but he left the new funding method intact. The state legislature is now gearing up to potentially override some of DeWine's 67 line-item vetoes, but the new funding method is already in place as of July 1 since it was not challenged by the governor.

What's the Controversy?

Opponents have highlighted that this change in the PLF will immediately

result in a huge loss for libraries: The appropriation for FY2026 reduces public library funding approximately \$25 million in comparison to FY2025 actual amounts. Also, some librarians fear that the PLF will continue to receive reduced funding--or be eliminated entirely--now that the state legislature determines the total appropriations with every new budget bill.

What's the Impact?

Even before this significant funding change, budget bills regularly modified the percentage of the GRF received by the PLF. Public libraries have always been subject to a level of unpredictability in funding and have always adapted, often by cutting services, staffing, and/or hours. While state funding has its flaws, it remains a key reason why Ohio has one of the best public library systems in the country. Librarians will get creative to work with available funding, but some cuts will be inevitable.

What's the Impact to Law Libraries?

County law libraries are not impacted by state funding. County law libraries are funded primarily through traffic fines, and the statutory funding method has remained virtually unchanged for decades. However, the funding is funneled through the local courts and remains local. As a result, some county law libraries operate with funding under \$25,000 per year while others receive hundreds of thousands. Also, the number of traffic tickets written and paid each year varies significantly, with huge reductions (40-50% for some libraries) after COVID. Much like public librarians, law librarians frequently search for creative solutions to challenging budgets.

More Reading

For a brief overview of the history of public library funding in Ohio, see <https://www.olc.org/assets/pdf/History+of+Funding+01.01.25/>.

For a summary of the budget bill's impact to public library funding, see <https://www.olc.org/government-relations/state-budget/>.

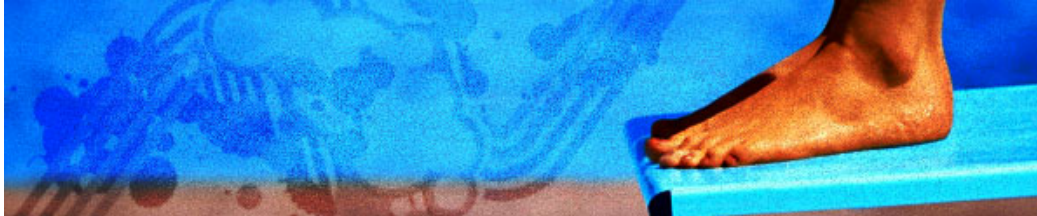
What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Minnie - *Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green, *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman, *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle, *Reykjavik* by Ragnar Jonasson and Katrin Jakobsdottir, and *Say You'll Remember Me* by Abby Jimenez

Susanna - *The Last American Road Trip* by Sarah Kendzior, *Audition* by Katie Kitamura, and *Where When it Rains* by John Duffy





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