



Important Update: A Critical Challenge for Ohio Libraries

This is an urgent call for HELP from your library. Way Library, along with libraries across Ohio, is facing an unprecedented challenge. On April 1, the Ohio House of Representatives introduced its version of the state budget, which includes a proposal to eliminate the Public Library Fund (PLF)—a fund that has been legally protected for decades and is responsible for the majority of Ohio’s public library funding. If this new proposal passes, it would mean \$100 million less for Ohio public libraries over the next two years—with no guarantee of funding beyond 2027.

In 2024, the Public Library Fund supported 43% of Way Library's operations, including adult and children’s programs, storytimes, technology classes, one-on-one assistance, initiatives to help foster a love of reading and learning in children—and so much more.

How can you help?

To make the greatest impact, please contact Representative Haraz Ghanbari and Speaker Matt Huffman by phone **before April 7**. If you're hesitant to make a call, we encourage you to send them an email instead, also by **April 7**.

When you reach out, please tell them:

1. **DON'T CUT OHIO'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES!**
2. **DON'T CUT MY LIBRARY!** Share how Way Library has positively impacted your life. Personal stories make a big difference to legislators. Representative Ghanbari needs to hear your stories of what the library means to you and your family. Then he can share it with his colleagues so they too can fight for Ohio Libraries.
3. **Ask them to restore the PLF and set it at 1.75%!**

Contact Information:

Rep. Haraz Ghanbari:
Phone: (614) 466-8104
Email: rep75@ohiohouse.gov

Speaker Matt Huffman:
Phone: (614) 466-6344
Email: rep78@ohiohouse.gov

We are grateful to Representative Haraz Ghanbari and Senator Theresa Gavarone for their support of Way Library and other libraries in Wood County, but they are only two of many voices in our state government. Thank you for taking action today to help restore funding for Way Library and libraries

across Ohio. If you have further questions, contact Way Library Director Janel Haas at 419-874-3135 ext. 102 or Assistant Director Travis McAfee at 419-874-3135 ext. 108.

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