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CALL TO ACTION

February 21, 2022

Legislators Need to Hear from You on the Local Government Fund

The Ohio House of Representatives is currently considering House Bill 33, the FY 2024-2025 State Operating Budget, and it will soon go to the Senate. In Governor DeWine's proposed budget, the Local Government Fund (LGF) – one of the central pillars of the state and local partnership that provides funding for municipalities to use on current operating expenses – is proposed to be slightly increased. But more can be done, and your community's state representative and state senator need to hear from you.

Call to Action

We have two actions we are asking your community to take:

- **Contact your community's representative and senator to share about the importance of the Local Government Fund** -- including how you use the funding, actions your community took as a result of past LGF or other cuts to local government, the inflationary increases you are facing, and how your community would likely use increased LGF funding. OML has been visiting with legislators, and they are eager to hear specifics from within their districts. Several believe that the communities in their district do not need an increase -- especially as a result of recent COVID-recovery funding. Yet many conversations are happening within the Legislature -- including the possibility of a further LGF increase -- and emphasizing the importance of full LGF restoration can go a long way in providing your community with ongoing, flexible funding.
- **Have your council pass a resolution in support of full restoration of the Local Government Fund.** Not only does this highlight your community's position on the issue, but it also influences legislators and often brings media attention to highlight the significance of the fund toward local programs and services. A sample resolution is available [here](#).

Background

The current LGF provides for 1.66% of the state's General Revenue Fund to go to municipalities, townships, counties, and a few special districts. This current percentage was established during the state's projected fiscal crisis a decade ago to fill a perceived \$8 billion biennial budget gap, and it replaced the previous level of 3.68%. Since then, it has been a top priority of OML to have the LGF fully restored.

In light of the robust financial position of the state (based on state revenues and a historically high rainy day fund), now is the time for the state to reinvest in local governments.

Keep OML in the Loop

Feel free to share any information you pass along to your legislators with the OML team. We would especially love to hear from you on the conversations and interactions you have with your legislators so that we can keep track of where they stand on the issue.

Reach out to OML if we can be of any assistance to you.

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