

STATE FUNDING & YOUR LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS REDUCED IN THE WAKE OF STATE FUNDING CUTS

The economic crisis in the State of Ohio resulted in a loss of state funding to libraries. When the State's biennium budget went into effect on August 1, Ohio's public libraries were subject to an additional cut to the Public Library Fund that resulted in a total loss of 31% of state revenues to libraries.

Bellevue Library depends on state funding, which provided 65% of our total operating revenues last year. We are very thankful to the citizens of Bellevue who contacted legislators in June to protest the State's cut to library funding. Without your passionate pleas for the Library, we would be facing an even greater financial loss.

The Bellevue Library is also in a better situation than it would have been thanks to other contributing factors. We have a local operating tax levy and we have been fiscally prudent over the years. Together these conditions have prevented us from having to cut services more severely. As state dollars decline and become a smaller portion of our total revenues, the Library depends more heavily on local taxes and gifts. We are extremely grateful for the community's financial support through our local operating tax levy.

Despite reduced revenue, we remain committed to providing the community the best service possible with the resources available in these difficult economic conditions. We are disappointed that reduced state revenue will impact library service to the community at a time when library services are needed most. In the short-term, this loss of funding will be measured in fewer books available and fewer hours of operation.

We sincerely hope that you will find an opportunity to visit the Library during hours open or find services available online 24/7. Most importantly, we thank you for your continued support.

Molly Carver, Director