



Cuyahoga County  
Public Library



## Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee

House Bill 76

December 11, 2019

Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of House Bill 76.

For background, the Metropolitan Libraries of Ohio represents the eight largest library systems in Ohio. As you know, libraries are a critical component of the social fabric in our communities. Libraries not only serve as an outlet for literary pursuits, we play a role in workforce development, early childhood education, and public health – just to name a few of the many hats modern libraries wear. Each library system depends on state funding and local funding to provide these services to our respective communities. Local levies are a tool utilized by many library systems for operational funds.

If passed, House Bill 76 will create confusion among voters. This is contrary to the stated intent of the bill. By requiring ballot language to describe the impact of a proposed levy on the fair market value of a property per \$100,000 dollars of that value, this bill causes more uncertainty, not less. This method will not accurately and clearly provide the voter the correct amount of their new property taxes based on passage of the levy, nor should the ballot be used for that purpose. The only accurate way to calculate a proposed tax's impact on a homeowner is for the auditor to determine the tax's effect on taxable value after taking into consideration all other factors that may impact that property's value – like CAUV or the Homestead Exemption.

Other public finance experts will testify as to the negative impact House Bill 76 will have on painting a truly accurate picture for tax payers. Just know that as public libraries, we focus on, and take pride in, providing accurate information to the public. This bill will not do that instead it will only confuse the general public as they enter the voting booth.

We agree that ballot language should be transparent and clear for our voters. However, House Bill 76 creates more confusion and difficulty for a voter to determine the actual impact of a levy's passage.

In conclusion, we urge this committee to reject House Bill 76. Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to answer any questions.