

## Erie County

### Impact of Ohio's 2012-13 state budget (HB 153)

Ohio's budget for 2012 and 2013 cut local government aid by a billion dollars. This means cuts in services we depend on, from road repair and emergency services to crossing guards, senior transportation and child protective services. What are the implications for Erie County?

The state cut the Local Government Fund to the county, forcing Erie County to make cuts to jurisdictions within the county. The state also cut direct funding to municipalities, and slashed reimbursements for taxes it had eliminated, taxes that businesses and utilities had paid to local governments. School districts and the public library fund were also cut. Losses in calendar years 2012 and 2013, compared to 2010 and 2011, include, among others:

• Schools	-\$11.0 million
• County (including county undivided fund)	-\$4.3 million
• Erie County Parks	-\$97.0 thousand
• Public library	-\$179.0 thousand
• Margaretta Township	-\$125.0 thousand
• Perkins Township	-\$430.0 thousand
• Huron City	-\$101.0 thousand
• Sandusky	-\$431.0 thousand
• Vermillion	-\$155.0 thousand

#### Losses to health and human service levies

• County mental health	-\$489.0 thousand
• Erie-Lorain Health District	-\$207.0 thousand
• Erie-Ottawa Mental Health District	-\$565.0 thousand
• County seniors services	-\$94.0 thousand

#### Notes and quotes

“Department heads have spent the last four years learning to operate with less money, and the county as a whole has reduced expenses in countless programs.” From Andy Ouriel, “Erie County knifes \$4M from budget, no employees cut.” *Sandusky Register*. January 31, 2012.

<http://tinyurl.com/c7lun7h>.

#### Key findings

- Erie County, its jurisdictions, schools, services and levies, lost \$18 million in the current state budget compared to the last.
- Health and human services lost \$1.3 million.
- 400 local government jobs have been cut since 2005.

"In these economic times, we have to every day constantly watch every dollar." – Pat Shenigo, County Commissioner. From Andy Ouriel, "Erie County knifes \$4M from budget, no employees cut." *Sandusky Register*. January 31, 2012.

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NOTES: The current state budget cuts the **Local Government Fund** to counties, municipalities and townships by 25 percent in the first year and by 50 percent in the second year. This 77-year old state revenue sharing program has, for generations, been essential to helping Ohio communities fund schools, provide services, and lift people out of poverty. The current state budget also phases out most of the **tangible personal property tax** and **public utility property tax reimbursements**, which were promised to local governments when the state cut taxes in recent years. These are not the only losses to local governments because of this budget. There are others in specific programs. Here we detail some of the bigger shifts. Change in revenues shown here include:

- **Local Government Fund "County Undivided Fund,"** which counties share with their cities, townships and villages. We show how much less money the counties are receiving under the current 2-year state budget (for 2012 and 2013) compared to the two years under the prior state budget (which was for 2010 and 2011). Here the funds are shown on a calendar year basis because that is how the tax department forecasts and records their distribution to local governments, and it is how local governments budget. (The state budget is on a fiscal year basis, from July 1 to June 30).
- **Local Government "Municipal Direct" allocation** from the Local Government Fund that the state gives directly to municipalities with an income tax. This is also shown in terms of funding provided in the calendar years 2012 and 2013 compared to 2010 and 2011.
- **Property tax reimbursements** promised to local governments during tax reductions enacted earlier in the decade; loss of funding in calendar years 2012 and 2013 is compared to the level of funding provided in 2010 and 2011.

The figures for changes in funding levels are based on data provided by and spreadsheets online at the Ohio Department of Taxation for local government funds and tax reimbursement distributions.

