

Huron 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 Huron County?

The state cut the Local Government Fund to the county, forcing Huron 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:

- Public Library Fund - \$110 thousand
- Schools - \$8.8 million
- County operations (includes county undivided fund) - \$2.9 million
- Norwalk - \$332 thousand
- Willard - \$260 thousand

Loss to health and human service levies

- County mental health/ Developmental disabilities - \$363 thousand
- County general health district - \$52 thousand
- County seniors services - \$48 thousand

Notes and quotes

“Transportation in this rural county is important for helping families get from Point A to Point B to receive family services. Transportation, however, has been suffering due to the budget cuts and the fact that it is a rural county. The budget cuts to Help Me Grow have meant that they no longer can provide transportation to patients.” —June Ginther, Coordinator for Ohio Family and Children First, from personal interview, June 28, 2012.

“Presently, the sheriff's office has four cars with more than 200,000 miles on them and six more cars that by year's end will be nearly at 200,000 miles . . . By comparison, the state Highway Patrol

Key findings

- Huron County, its jurisdictions, schools, services and levies, lost \$12.7 million in the current state budget
- Social services lost \$463,000.
- The Help Me Grow program was harmed by budget cuts
- Sheriff department vehicles were not being replaced, despite having traveled more than 200,000 miles.

removes cars from service at 115,000 miles because they are deemed unsafe for service, Captain Ted Patrick said.” From “Sherriff’s office fleet ‘below average,’” *Norwalk Reflector*, May 15, 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/95pxe97>.

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 based on the fiscal year, July 1 through 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. The 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.

