

Medina County

Impact of the 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 Medina County?

The state cut the Local Government Fund to the county, forcing Medina 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 - \$145.0 thousand
- Schools - \$22.9 million
- County operations - \$6.8 million (includes LGF for Townships and parks)
- Brunswick City - \$828.0 thousand
- Medina City - \$911.0 thousand
- Wadsworth - \$750.0 thousand
- Medina County Park District - \$202.0 thousand

Loss to health and human service levies

- County mental health/ Developmental disabilities - \$1.2 million
- County health services - \$308.0 thousand
- County Senior Services - \$71.0 thousand

Notes and Quotes

"The loss of state funds to Medina County in FY2012 was significant compared to prior years."

– Michael Kovack, county auditor. From phone interview, June 28, 2012.

The city of Brunswick cut almost 85 percent of this year's cable budget and planned to cut a smaller percentage each of the next four years to create additional funding for road maintenance. City Council members unanimously voted to move the funds from the cable budget to the general fund. From "Brunswick cable budget to lose 85 percent for road upgrades," *The Medina Gazette*, April 24, 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/8gkgloc>.

Key findings

- Medina County, its jurisdictions, schools, services and levies, lost \$33.8 million in the current state budget.
- Health and human services lose \$1.6 million.
- The size of the cuts to the LGFs was 5.4 percent of the county's General Revenue Fund.
- Staffing from 2011-12 was reduced by 3.6 percent.
- The Cleveland area MSA, of which Medina County is a part, lost 8,000 local government jobs between the end of the recession and 2011.

“We lost Help Me Grow funding.... They are looking for other providers, which will cost other agencies more than what it does now. We now have no one who is willing to take over the Home Care provider, which we have 25 families on. We also lost money for delayed and disabled children. Both are major concerns. We are very concerned about the adult protection services because there is minimal money to provide services and none to investigate. The amount of people applying for food stamps is rising, which is a scary trend for such an affluent county. We always have trouble with transportation, but there have been significant cuts in funding for transportation. As more funding cuts occur, it is going to be even more difficult for the disabled and seniors to get help.” – Christine Ruf, Coordinator for Ohio Family and Children First Council. Phone interview, June 28, 2012.

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.

