

Impact of SB1 Property Tax Reform on Indiana Public Libraries

Indiana Library Federation opposes policy that threatens adequate funding for public libraries in Indiana. Without stable funding, Indiana libraries would face irreversible harm and jeopardize their ability to serve the public. Indiana Library Federation supports replacement revenue mechanisms available to libraries.

Hoosiers Need and Use Their Libraries

- In 2023, Hoosiers made 21.5M visits to libraries and checked out over 54M items
- In 2023, Hoosiers attended 117,000 library programs

Provide Essential Services

- Provide critical services in rural and underserved areas operating as community hubs
- Combat the digital divide. In 2023, Public libraries provided access to 2.4M computer sessions and 20.6M wi-fi sessions
- Provide barrier free access to early childhood literacy programming and resources

Assist in Economic Development, Placemaking, and Workforce Development

- Contribute to local economies by supporting small businesses, entrepreneurs, and job seekers
- Provide resources, makerspaces, accessible spaces, and workforce training programs that plays a direct role in economic growth and job creation

Efficient Stewardship of Public Funds

- Libraries provide a remarkable return on investment with one of the lowest tax rates among government entities
- Libraries are the only local government unit that has a restriction on cash reserves. It is limited to no more than 150% of the library's annual operating budget - Libraries do not have capital improvement funds
- Libraries did not expand budgets with temporary ARPA funds

Proposed Solution

- Indiana Library Federation supports language that provides a revenue replacement mechanism to replace property tax revenue. This could include a dedicated LIT rate available to all libraries
- Any mechanism designed to replace revenue should be available to libraries

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