

## *Our Legislators*

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# **S.O.S. for Michigan Libraries**

## **State Aid Matters!**

- ***How is state aid to public libraries used to provide library services?***
  - State aid helps local libraries pay for shared Lakeland Library Cooperative services as well as some local services.
- ***Is state aid to public libraries a big part of the state budget?***
  - State aid is .0007% of the State's General Fund budget.
- ***How much has state aid been cut already and what are the proposals for next year's budget?***
  - State aid was **cut by 40%** in 2009-2010. Governor Granholm has proposed an additional 2.5% cut and the House has proposed a 12% cut in state aid to public libraries for the 2010-2011 budget year. The current state aid level is \$6 million, down from \$10 million in the 2008-2009 budget.
- ***What shared services do the Lakeland libraries, including Grant Area District Library, get from the Cooperative?***
  - The **cost-effective collaboration** of Lakeland libraries results in a shared electronic catalog, interlibrary loan, and a delivery service for interlibrary loan items.
- ***Why does it matter if state aid is cut by the legislature?***
  - If state aid is cut, then funding for the delivery system is reduced along with funding for other shared services. Statewide services such as the Michigan Electronic Library also will be affected. Michigan residents performed over 38.5 million searches and downloaded over 13.6 million articles in 2009.
- ***Why does it matter if funding for the delivery system is cut?***
  - With cuts in funding, interlibrary loan and delivery services are at risk. Over 914,000 items were moved from library to library in 2009 when Lakeland library users placed holds on books and other library materials. Another 35,000 books were requested through the statewide interloan system, MeLCat.
- ***How can you help?***
  - Email, telephone or write your legislators to let them know why library services are important to you and why it is important for them to support state aid to public libraries at \$8 million.