



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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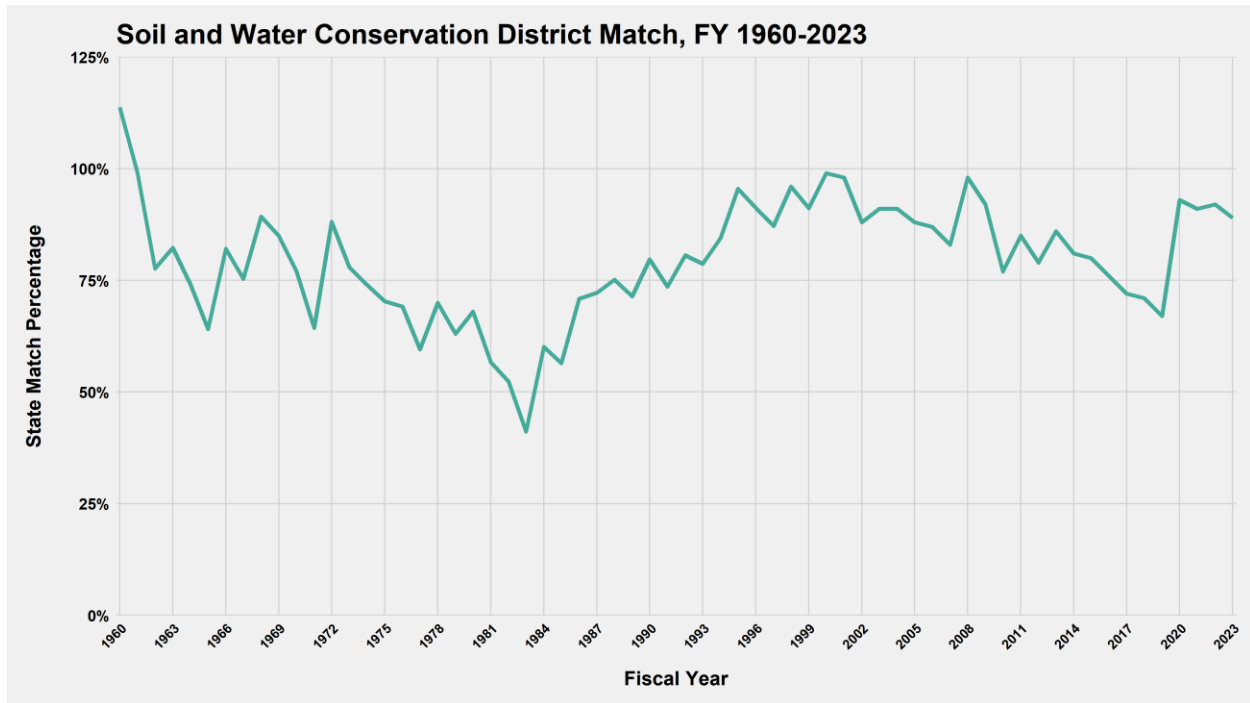
Soil and Water Conservation Districts are matched with state funds at 91%

County soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) have been in existence since FY 1959; however, the state did not start matching local funds until fiscal year 1960. Since then, it has been the custom of the state legislature in matching local SWCD funds with state dollars. SWCDs have seen matches as high as 113% in FY 1960 and as low as 41% in FY 1983.

The 88 SWCDs will be receiving a state match of 91% in FY 2024. This number is in line with the previous four years. In FY 2019, the state match was about 67%. Governor Mike DeWine's introduced budget had funding levels at a match of approximately 94%. The final version did see a slight percent decrease, however the estimated match of 91% is still greater than most of past budgets.

CCAO continues to stress the importance of a 1:1 match to the state government and will work to continue success in future budgets.

Below is a graph showing the state match percentage to SWCDs since 1960. You can access a document showing each county's [expected funding in FY 2024 here](#).



CCAO presentation on budget available; future regional presentations planned

On Friday, as part of the CCAO Summer Symposium, the CCAO policy staff presented an overview of how House Bill 33, the state's operating budget, will affect counties. A copy of the presentation can be [accessed here](#).

Key highlights in the budget include an increase of \$67 million for indigent defense reimbursement, \$75 million for county jail construction, an increase in the Local Government Fund percentage and other structural changes to the LGF, competitive bidding and county government reform, and several grant programs which will benefit counties.

CCAO provided a webinar on the budget earlier in the month, which can be [accessed here](#). Additionally, CCAO will be conducting regional budget briefings to provide a more in-depth analysis and education regarding the county impacts of the budget. The Association will provide more information regarding these briefings in the near future.

If you have questions concerning provisions of the state budget, please contact a member of the [CCAO Policy Team](#).

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bills that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 254](#) (Representative Tracy Richardson and Representative Adam Holmes): To expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.