

# Foreword

I remember the first time I heard Richard Sheridan describe the state budget at a Federation for Community Planning Human Services Institute. I was a 30-something human service advocate who knew next to nothing about the state budget nor how it was assembled. I was awed by his presentation and encyclopedic knowledge. I learned that if you cared about state policy, then you needed to understand the state budget, and there was no better teacher than Dick Sheridan.

As the first director of the Ohio's Legislative Budget Office (LBO) during the 1970s, Dick led a non-partisan staff advising leaders of both parties through years of unprecedented expansion in social service provision. Then in the early 1980s, Dick joined the faculty of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Next he joined us, where for over a decade he shared his intellectual riches as an author of five books on state government and a statewide human services finance newsletter. In 1995, Dick was recruited back into state government as chief of the Division of Finance for State Auditor Jim Petro.

Fast forward a few years and my predecessor John Begala recruited me to manage the public policy and advocacy work of The Center for Community Solutions. At the same time, he also recruited Dick to rejoin the Community Solutions staff as a regular writer and senior advisor. It meant that I was now Dick's boss (to the extent anyone could be). During this period, Dick authored comprehensive reports on state tax policy, a retrospective on the Taft administration and regular papers on all aspects of state finance and policy.

Dick was the most prolific writer I've ever known. He could literally print out 3,000 pages of the state budget (typically breaking our copier in the process) on a Friday and return on Monday with a full-scale analysis. He was a brilliant story teller who often regaled me with tales of Statehouse intrigue. Dick spent a lot of time at his home in Lakewood, Ohio, which was packed full of treasures he had acquired from around the globe. Sadly, Dick passed way in 2009.

By demystifying the state budget process, Dick helped to level the legislative playing field for Ohio's health and human service advocates. It's in this spirit that Community Solutions decided to support the publication of a fourth edition of *Follow the Money*. We could not have done this, though, without the continued assistance of one of Dick's former colleagues, Terry Thomas, who lent his own extensive knowledge and experience to this endeavor. Terry has held senior leadership posts in both the executive and legislative branches of Ohio government and was the founding director for the

Ohio Association of Community Colleges. This book also includes chapters authored by my expert colleagues Tara Britton and Loren Anthes.

Thanks to Terry, Tara and Loren's efforts to preserve *Follow the Money*, Dick's contributions to Ohio will not be forgotten, and a new generation of policy makers and advocates will have access to the history, information and data they need to help shape today's better policy decisions for Ohio's future.

John R. Corlett

*President and Executive Director*

*The Center for Community Solutions*