

# Chillicothe Gazette

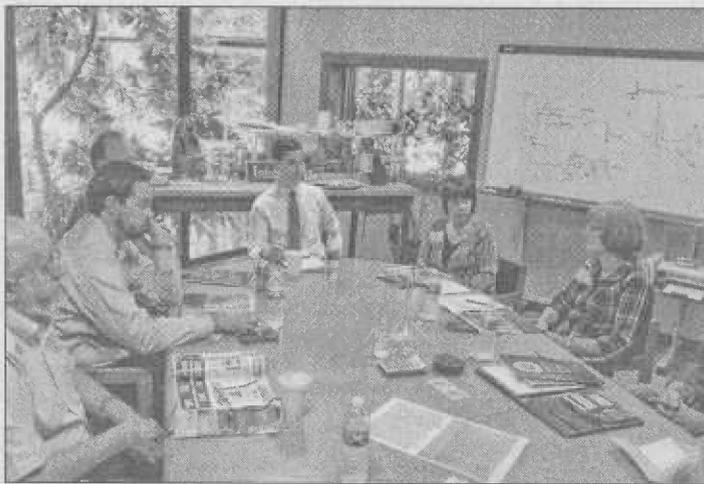
## Treasurer stops in Chillicothe

Mandel addresses transparency, plans to grow economy in meeting at Infosight

**By Matthew Kent**  
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**CHILLICOTHE** — State Treasurer Josh Mandel said during a stop in Chillicothe on Thursday that he plans to continue running a transparent office while promoting the state's economic development programs.

Mandel, who met with area business leaders in a roundtable discussion at Infosight Corp., told officials that the economic development programs are run in conjunction with banks and lender institutions to help spur economic growth in the state. He stressed that government transparency can be key in those development efforts.



Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, center, met with area business leaders Thursday during a roundtable discussion at Infosight Corp. that focused on his accomplishments while in office. **MATTHEW KENT/GAZETTE**

Mandel pointed to transparency efforts such as placing a database containing state employee salary information online a few years ago and moving ahead with a state property database detailing property that is unused or underused as examples.

Another initiative that has yet to be rolled out involves taking the state's checkbook and putting it on the Internet in a move he said will allow people to see how the government is spending its money on salaries and items such as office equipment. That move would permit

the public to compare one state agency's spending to another's, Mandel said.

Mandel, a former state representative and Lyndhurst city councilman, also addressed other issues facing the state, including the estate tax, which was phased out as of Jan. 1, and said he has been a staunch advocate of bringing uniformity to the municipal income tax system — an issue being taken up in House Bill 5.

Mandel said Ohio is the only state that allows municipalities to make up their own income tax rules and called it “a serious issue.”

City officials in Chillicothe already have passed a resolution opposing the legislation that would require municipal entities levying an income tax as of Jan. 1, 2015, to repeal their existing tax and reinstitute it under a new structure created by the bill. City Auditor Luke Feeney has said the bill will take away a lot of local control if passed in its current form.