



# JOSH MANDEL

## STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Press Release - Ohio Treasurer's Office

COLUMBUS &ndash; Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel and the Ohio Treasurer's office received the "Innovation Game Changer" Award from the Ohio Interactive Awards program for OhioCheckbook.com. Last year, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet for taxpayers to search, sort and download. OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the number one ranking in the country for government transparency, setting a new national standard.

Created in 2009, the Ohio Interactive Awards program is a statewide competition showcasing Ohio industry leaders who have made groundbreaking advancements in the digital and interactive community. The "Innovation Game Changer" Award is presented to an Ohio leader that has produced the most innovative and leading technology, process or product that has created actionable value for its users.

"We are proud to have launched OhioCheckbook.com and believe it is a powerful tool for taxpayers," said Treasurer Mandel. "OhioCheckbook.com gives Ohioans unprecedented access to spending information and empowers them to follow their money and hold politicians accountable."

"The Ohio Interactive Awards recognizes and celebrates the exceptional innovation and creativity that is produced every day in Ohio," said Mark Whitman, Managing Partner at TeamBuilder Search, and founding member of the awards program. "This year's winners and runners-up should be especially proud of their accomplishments, as they stood out among Ohio's large field of incredibly talented professionals."

Launched on December 2, 2014, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from taxpayers, media and good government groups across the state and country. To date, there have been nearly 200,000 total searches on the site. OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$408 billion in spending over the past seven years, including more than 112 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- "Google-style" contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

Last month, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual "Following the Money 2015" report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46th to 1st in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel's release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year &ndash; the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings. For more information visit [OhioCheckbook.com](http://OhioCheckbook.com).

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