



# JOSH MANDEL

## STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Press Release - Ohio Treasurer's Office

WESTERVILLE &ndash; Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel visited the Westerville Rotary Club today for a presentation on 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.

Treasurer Mandel presented an interactive demonstration of OhioCheckbook.com to Rotary Club attendees and took questions on state and local finances, updates from the Treasurer's office and the most recent initiative of the Treasurer's Transparency Project.

In April, Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state with an invitation to partner with the Ohio Treasurer's office and post their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com at no cost.

"We are proud to have launched OhioCheckbook.com and believe it is a powerful resource for taxpayers," said Treasurer Mandel. "I appreciate the opportunity to join members of the Westerville community to share with them how OhioCheckbook.com can help empower them to hold elected officials accountable."

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from taxpayers, media and good government groups across the state and country. To date, there have been more than 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.

In March, 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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