



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over 100 Local Government and School District Sites Live on OhioCheckbook.com

Press Release - Ohio Treasurer's Office

SPRINGFIELD – Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel stood today with Clark County School officials and announced the launch of the Southeastern Local School District, Greenon Local School District and Clark Shawnee Local School District checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com. Last year, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which sets a new national standard for government transparency and for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet. OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the number one ranking in the country for government transparency.

Treasurer Mandel was joined at today's announcement by Southeastern and Greenon Schools Treasurer Brad McKee, Clark Shawnee Schools Treasurer Thomas Faulkner and Clark Shawnee Superintendent Gregg Morris. With this launch, Southeastern Local Schools displays over \$55 million of total spending over the past seven fiscal years. Greenon Local Schools displays over \$109 million of total spending over the past seven fiscal years and Clark Shawnee Schools displays over \$103 million of total spending over the past five fiscal years.

Southeastern Local School District, Greenon Local School District and Clark Shawnee Local School District are the 116th, 117th and 118th entities in Ohio to post their checkbook level expenditures on OhioCheckbook.com. Combined, all local government and school district checkbook sites include more than 6.6 million individual checks that equate to more than \$18.2 billion worth of total spending.

"I believe the people of Clark County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with the Treasurer's office to post their finances on OhioCheckbook.com," said Treasurer Mandel. "By partnering and posting local government checkbooks, taxpayers across Ohio are empowered with a powerful tool to hold public officials accountable within their communities."

"The Ohio Checkbook is an innovative way for Southeastern and Greenon Schools to bolster our commitment to financial transparency and ensure that taxpayers have access to accurate information about the operations of the district," said Treasurer Brad McKee. "Residents will now be able to access that information with just a few clicks and see it in an interactive, easy-to-use format. I want to thank Treasurer Mandel and his staff for their assistance in providing this resource to school districts like ours so that we can affirm our dedication to transparency and openness in all we do."

"At Clark-Shawnee, we are committed to wisely managing the taxpayers' investment in excellence in education and to transparency in all aspects of our fiscal operations," said Clark-Shawnee Treasurer Thomas Faulkner. "We appreciate this opportunity from the Ohio Treasurer's office to expand our ability to provide accurate and accessible information about the finances of the district."

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On April 7th, Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

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 newspapers and groups across the state and, as of November 4, 2015 there have been more than 375,500 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$473 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 130 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 — the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

The Treasurer’s office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents

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of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. "Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer's office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state," said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

For more information or to view your local government website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com or click on SoutheasternSchoolsClark.OhioCheckbook.com, ClarkShawneeSchools.OhioCheckbook.com, or GreenonSchools.OhioCheckbook.com.

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