

Strongsville THE POST

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Ohio treasurer pays a visit to Strongsville

Mandel tours Vitamix facility on Morgan Court

By **TERRY BRLAS**
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STRONGSVILLE – Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel visited the city of Strongsville Jan. 20 to tour the Vitamix facility on Morgan Court.

Joining Mandel was Vitamix President and CEO Jodi Berg; Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak; Strongsville Economic Development Director Brent Painter; Frank Kohstall, regional representative with the Ohio Treasurer's Office; Vitamix Director of Communications Scott Tennant and Vitamix Manufacturing Operations Manager Brad Johnson.

Vitamix has been in Strongsville since 2013. The company operates supply chain, manufacturing and global distribution operations at the Morgan Court facility. Between 5,000 and 6,000 blenders are produced each day.

"Manufacturing is one of the key components to Ohio's economic backbone and what Vitamix is doing here epitomizes the businesses we like to see grow throughout the state," Mandel said. "This is a family owned enterprise that started as a small business and has grown into a company that puts food on the table for 1,500 families. As a state leader I think we should be doing everything we can to create a better environment for growth of

the manufacturing sector, especially for locally owned family businesses."

The treasurer stated the city of Strongsville is a model that other municipalities should look to emulate in regard to economic development.

"Strongsville is an example of how local leaders can work with business leaders to advance economic growth," Mandel said. "I think mayors throughout the state and country can learn a lot from Mayor Perciak's focus on economic growth and vitality for the region."

Mandel added he was impressed with the way the city of Strongsville has operated in a financially responsible fashion.

"City leaders recognize that if families and businesses are going to be tightening their belts, than city government should be doing the same thing," he said.

One of the reasons the city of Strongsville has been successful in the realm of economic development is its diversification. Not one industry or one company accounts for more than 3 percent of the overall income tax collection.

"You see companies in manufacturing, in food service, in construction and many other arenas so that diversification keeps the community strong in down times and in up times ensures there is economic



Photo by TERRY BRLAS

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel (right) toured the Strongsville Vitamix facility on Morgan Court Jan. 20. Standing to Mandel's right is Vitamix President and CEO Jodi Berg. Explaining one of the processes is Vitamix Manufacturing Operations Manager Brad Johnson.

growth at a high rate," Mandel said.

The treasurer does not believe that government should be picking winners and losers in the marketplace. Mandel is a firm believer that government should be limited.

He added, "Taxes should be low, regulation should be common sense and we should empower entrepreneurs to grow their businesses without bureaucrats standing in their way. The vast majority of businesses I come across in the state are looking for a fair and predictable tax regulatory environment. They

want government to get out of the way."

Mandel pointed out that when Gov. John Kasich and he came into office the state of Ohio had an \$8 billion budget shortfall. That has been turned into a surplus.

"There has been significant job creation, but it's not enough. As we stand here today there are still way too many unemployed Ohioans," Mandel said. "Our main focus needs to be on creating a better environment for job creation in the state. Our job won't be done until every able bodied Ohioan has a job."