



# JOSH MANDEL

## STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

ORLANDO, FL &ndash; The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) today awarded Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel with an award for "Excellence in Financial Management" on behalf of the Ohio Treasurer's office. Treasurer Mandel was the only State Treasurer in the country to win this award.

"In just over three years we've taken Ohio's financial ranking from 43rd in the country to 7th in the country. I'm proud of this progress and honored to bring this award back to Ohio on behalf of my 11.5 million bosses," said Treasurer Mandel.

"We are proud to give this award for excellence in financial management to the Mandel Administration. Ohio's finances were not in good shape just a few short years ago, and Treasurer Mandel has made significant improvements for Ohio taxpayers," said AGA Executive Director Relmond Van Daniker, DBA.

The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional association that serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and campaigning in the public interest to forward higher standards of government accountability and transparency.

Among the accomplishments in the Ohio Treasury since Treasurer Mandel has taken office:

Ohio's financial ranking was 43rd in the country in 2011 according to Forbes magazine, and was ranked seventh in the country in 2014 by George Mason University. Among the two organizations that ranked the fiscal conditions of the states, Ohio achieved the largest improvement of any state in the nation.

Ohio faced an \$8 billion budget hole upon taking office, which has grown to a more than \$1 billion surplus. Ohio had just 89 cents in the rainy day fund, which has been replenished to approximately \$1.5 billion. These financial results have been a team effort among the governor, legislature, treasurer and other state leaders.

In the midst of the European sovereign debt crisis, and while 14 other state and local government investment funds were downgraded by Standard & Poor's rating agency, the Ohio Treasurer's office earned a AAA rating on the multibillion-dollar investment fund it manages on behalf of cities, schools and communities throughout Ohio.

The Ohio Treasurer's office earned the first ratings upgrade in nearly a decade for the Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund.

The Ohio Treasurer's office voluntarily cut the office budget three years in a row, saving taxpayers over \$4.7 million.

The Ohio Treasurer's office reduced staff from 140 budgeted positions, to 117 people today, while identifying more targeted ways to cut expenses.

The Ohio Treasurer's office helped lead the charge for improving government transparency and empowering citizens to follow their tax dollars, launching the Treasurer's Transparency Project, and placing salaries of all state government and school employees on the Internet.

The Ohio Treasurer's office is leading the charge to put Ohio's entire checkbook online so taxpayers can see every expenditure in state government.

For more information on AGA visit: [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) For more information on the Ohio Treasurer's office visit:

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