



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

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By Karen Farkas
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CLEVELAND, Ohio - Cuyahoga County on Friday began posting financial transactions on the state's online checkbook.

The county, the 12th to join, will be the largest local government in the state to post information on ohiocheckbook.com, said County Executive Armond Budish and state Treasurer Josh Mandel.

Cuyahoga County's online checkbook includes over 109,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$1.1 billion of total spending over the past fiscal year, officials said.

Cuyahoga County is the largest county in Ohio to partner with the treasurer's office to post their spending online on OhioCheckbook.com

"I believe the people of Cuyahoga County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on ohiocheckbook.com," Mandel said in a release. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

Cuyahoga County is "proud to open our finances to the public in a comprehensive fashion," Budish said in a news release. "We believe in making government as open and accessible as possible."

Mandel rolled out the online spending database in December 2014 with seven years of spending by statewide elected officials and state agencies.

Since then he has enlisted cities, school districts and park and library districts to post their expenses to his online state checkbook. Expenditures are generally updated monthly.

OhioCheckbook.com includes the following features:

- Search capabilities to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor.
- Interactive charts.
- Ability to compare spending year-over-year or among agencies.
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

"Transparency and accountability are two standards of good government," council member and finance committee chair Dave Greenspan said in a statement. "Our County's participation in the program further demonstrates this government's commitment to responsive and responsible representation."

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