



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

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By Jeremiah Shaver
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Jackson City Auditor Brett Reed along with his department is excited to announce to the public that the City of Jackson is the second city in Jackson County to post its spending on OhioCheckbook.com.

Dan Risko, deputy director of regional representatives for the state treasurer of Ohio's office, was present for the announcement held on Wednesday, April 20, at the Memorial Building in Jackson.

"We are here to recognize local leaders, who are shining sunlight on government spending," stated Risko. "I would like to thank Auditor Brett Reed and Deputy Auditor Wendy Sexton for their dedication to transparency and their hard work on this checkbook project."

Risko added, "We are happy to join them here for this announcement."

The Ohio Treasurer's Office was joined during the announcement by Reed, Sexton, Assistant Deputy Auditor Barbara Benson and Accounting Clerk Nancy Dearing.

"After reviewing OhioCheckbook.com and talking to other entities who are using it, we are pleased to join in and offer this to our community," said Reed. "This provides another level of transparency to our constituents about how money is spent in our city."

Reed added, "This information has always been available to the public, but this platform makes it easier for the taxpayers of our community to access specific information at their convenience."

According to Risko, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com in December 2014. OhioCheckbook.com 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 government transparency ranking in the country for a second year in a row.

Jackson's online checkbook includes over 34,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$47.5 million of total spending over the past two years.

"I believe the people of Jackson 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," said Treasurer Mandel. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

In Jackson County, the first entity to join OhioCheckbook.com was the Jackson County Commissioners. The City of Jackson now



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joins the county government along with the City of Wellston, Village of Oak Hill, Jackson City School District, Madison, Jefferson and Jackson Townships online at OhioCheckbook.com.

"I applaud the City of Jackson for participating in OhioCheckbook.com," said Senator Bob Peterson. "It is important for taxpayers to see how their tax dollars are being spent in an easy and readily available way."

On April 7, 2015, 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.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$512 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 139 million transactions.

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

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