



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

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By Jon Stinchcomb

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ELMORE ‐ Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced partnerships between his office and several local governments and school districts in Ottawa County to show their spending online at OhioCheckbook.com.

Among those announcing their participation are Port Clinton City Schools, Danbury Township, the City of Port Clinton, Marblehead Village, and Genoa Area Local Schools.

Following the announcement at a news conference at Schedel Gardens, Mandel demonstrated the website and its interactivity to the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation board of trustees.

OhioCheckbook.com was launched near the end of 2014, giving citizens immediate access to every expenditure made by state government in an effort to increase transparency.

The site features a "Google-style" search for keywords, the ability to create live dynamic charts, and comparison spending reports by year or agency.

Mandel is now calling for local governments and public school officials to make the same move toward transparency, inviting them to share their spending on the OhioCheckbook site at no cost to them locally.

"This is something that I think can be very empowering to taxpayers and also can be a great tool for local officials as well,"

Mandel said. "I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a couple people here in Ottawa County who have been leaders on this throughout the state of Ohio."

Mandel referred to Jeff Dornbusch, treasurer of the Port Clinton City School District; Auditor Cole Hatfield and Rhonda Sowers, Marblehead Village fiscal officer. Mandel said Marblehead was one of the first local governments in the state to participate.

"(The website) is a great resource for the Village of Marblehead and we are proud to partner with the Ohio Treasurer's office,"

Sowers said. "Transparency has become increasingly important to citizens and we are happy to be on the forefront by providing access through OhioCheckbook.com."

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