



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

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By Jim Brewer
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LOUDONVILLE -- Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced Oct. 21 the launch of the village of Loudonville's online checkbook on ohiocheckbook.com.

In December 2014, Mandel launched ohiocheckbook.com, which 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 No. 1 government transparency ranking in the country for a second year in a row.

The Ohio treasurer's office was joined at the announcement by Loudonville Mayor Steve Stricklen, fiscal officer Elaine Van Horn and state Sen. Larry Obhof. Loudonville is the first village in Ashland County to post their spending on ohiocheckbook.com.

Loudonville's online checkbook includes more than 21,600 individual transactions that represent more than \$8.2 million of total spending over the past three years.

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

"We were willing to join ohiocheckbook.com in an effort to provide our residents with this great online resource for easier access to public records with no cost to the village," Van Horn said. "Although village-detailed public records have always been and will remain available for public inspection in the fiscal office at any time, the ability for residents to view them online provides another avenue to be informed of local government operations."

"By participating in ohiocheckbook.com, Loudonville officials are holding themselves to a higher standard and today we applaud them for their commitment to public transparency and accountability," Obhof said.

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