

October 1, 2017

OHIOCHECKBOOK.com has provided examples of Ohio government reports and other data that can be accessed by anyone visiting the state website. The city of Madeira can be accessed from the OHIOCHECKBOOK.com home page. This state site provides financial information making our state and local government totally transparent. Josh Mandel, our State Treasurer was concerned that our state was 46th in transparency when compared to all of the other states.

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madeiramessenger.com



(http://tos.ohio.gov/)

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Fiscal Year:

2017

(7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017)

Agency (34)

Department of Transportation

Expense Type (455)

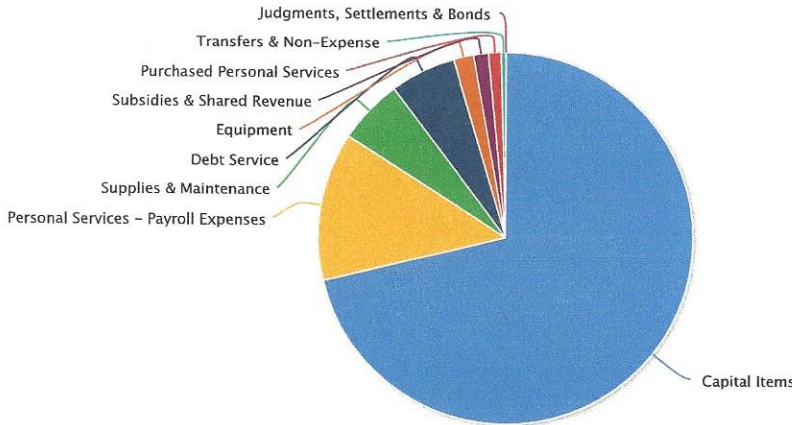
Select

Selected Expenditures »

State of Ohio » 2017 » Agency » Department of Transportation »

View By: Expense Type - Category

\$2,823,621,514.03 total



Redraw

Year to Year

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Any/Expense-Code-is-

Popular Search

Any/Budget-Line-Item-

Online-Any/Program-Checkbook(Glossary)

Any/Source-

Mobile App-

(http://ohiotreasurer.gov/Trans-

is-

State Salaries/chart-

(http://ohiotreasurer.gov/State-AccountCategory(4)/chi-

type-is-

FAQ (faq)

How Are We Doing?

Drop us a note.

View, sort and click the summary below

View Transactions | Export Summary (/Transparency/Handlers/TransactionExport.ashx?

Type=SummaryData&Display=account_category&levelOfGov=State&fiscalYear=2017&entityTypes=1&entities=DOT&total=339)

Name	Code	Amount
Capital Items	570	\$2,010,139,051.58
Personal Services - Payroll Expenses	500	\$364,397,507.27
Supplies & Maintenance	520	\$160,536,018.25
Debt Service	591	\$159,875,170.01
Equipment	530	\$49,489,854.94
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	550	\$35,714,716.42
Purchased Personal Services	510	\$31,037,865.89
Transfers & Non-Expense	595	\$11,030,974.19
Judgments, Settlements & Bonds	590	\$1,400,355.48



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Search Filters

Fiscal Year:

2017

(7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017)

Agency (148)

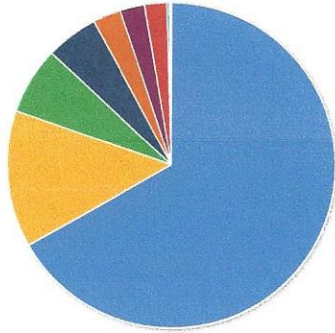
Select

Expense Type (691)

Select

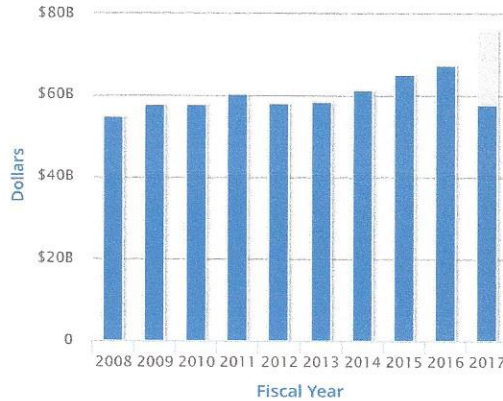
2017 State Spending

\$57,591,501,439.68 total



Expense Categories

Year to Year State Spending



Fiscal Year

What is this?



Popular Searches

Glossary (Ohio-Online-Checkbook/Glossary)

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FAQ (faq)

How Are We Doing?



View By:

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Largest Expense Types of 2017

Export

Expense Type	Amount
Medical & Rehab State Assistance	\$18,696,880,240.78
Grant - Paid to Government or Non-profi...	\$15,655,260,498.04
Other Distributions	\$3,221,912,795.89
Base Salaries & Wages	\$2,094,446,775.38
Tax Refunds	\$2,040,752,333.27
Grant (Dependent On Service)	\$1,917,487,274.08

Highest Paid Companies of 2017

Export

Paid To	State	Amount
SHELLY & SANDS INC	OH	\$247,862,373.02
KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION CO INC	OH	\$210,277,138.63
AETNA HEALTH GROUP	IL	\$206,200,551.30
US BANK NA	MO	\$150,858,232.55
OPTUM RX	CA	\$129,796,403.24
COMMUNITY INSURANCE COMPANY...	OH	\$116,456,877.01





(http://tos.ohio.gov/)

STATE OF OHIO
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LOCAL GOV & SCHOOLS
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Fiscal Year: [?](#)

2017

(7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017)

Agency (13)

Office of the Governor

Expense Type (59)

Supplies & Maintenance

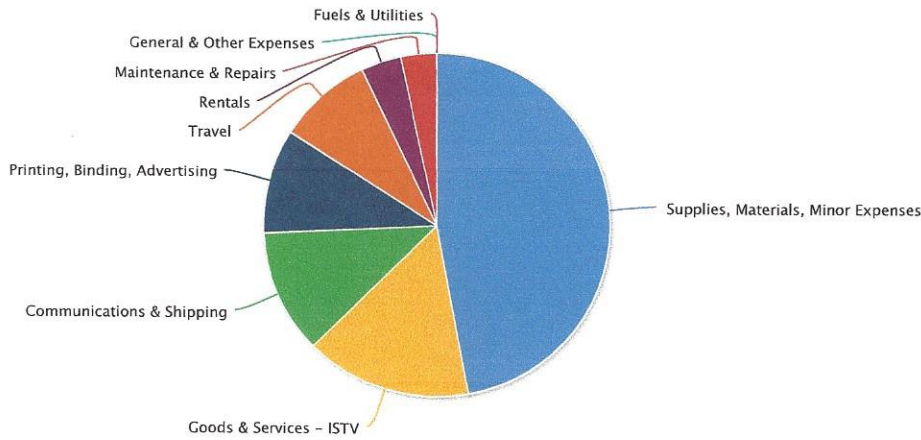
Selected Expenditures »

State of Ohio » 2017 » Elected Official » Office of the Governor » Supplies & Maintenance »

There are **339** transactions available to view

View By: Expense Type - Category

\$215,111.47 total



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Year to Year

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Advanced Search
 (/Transparency/Ohios-Online-Checkbook/Advanced-Search) State/2017/Agency-Type-is-Elected-Official/Agency-is-office-of-the-governor(GOV)/Expense-Category



Class-is-Any/Expense-Type-is-Any/Expense-Code-is-Any/Budget-Line-Item-Checkbook(Glossary) Any/Program-Mobile App Any/Source-of-Money-is-State-Salaries-Any/Bread-crumbs- (/http://ohiotreasurer.gov/State-0,1,2,3,4, chart- display-is-FAO (faq) AccountCategory(4)/ch-tune-is-



View, sort and click the checkbook below

Export (/Transparency/Handlers/TransactionExport.ashx?)

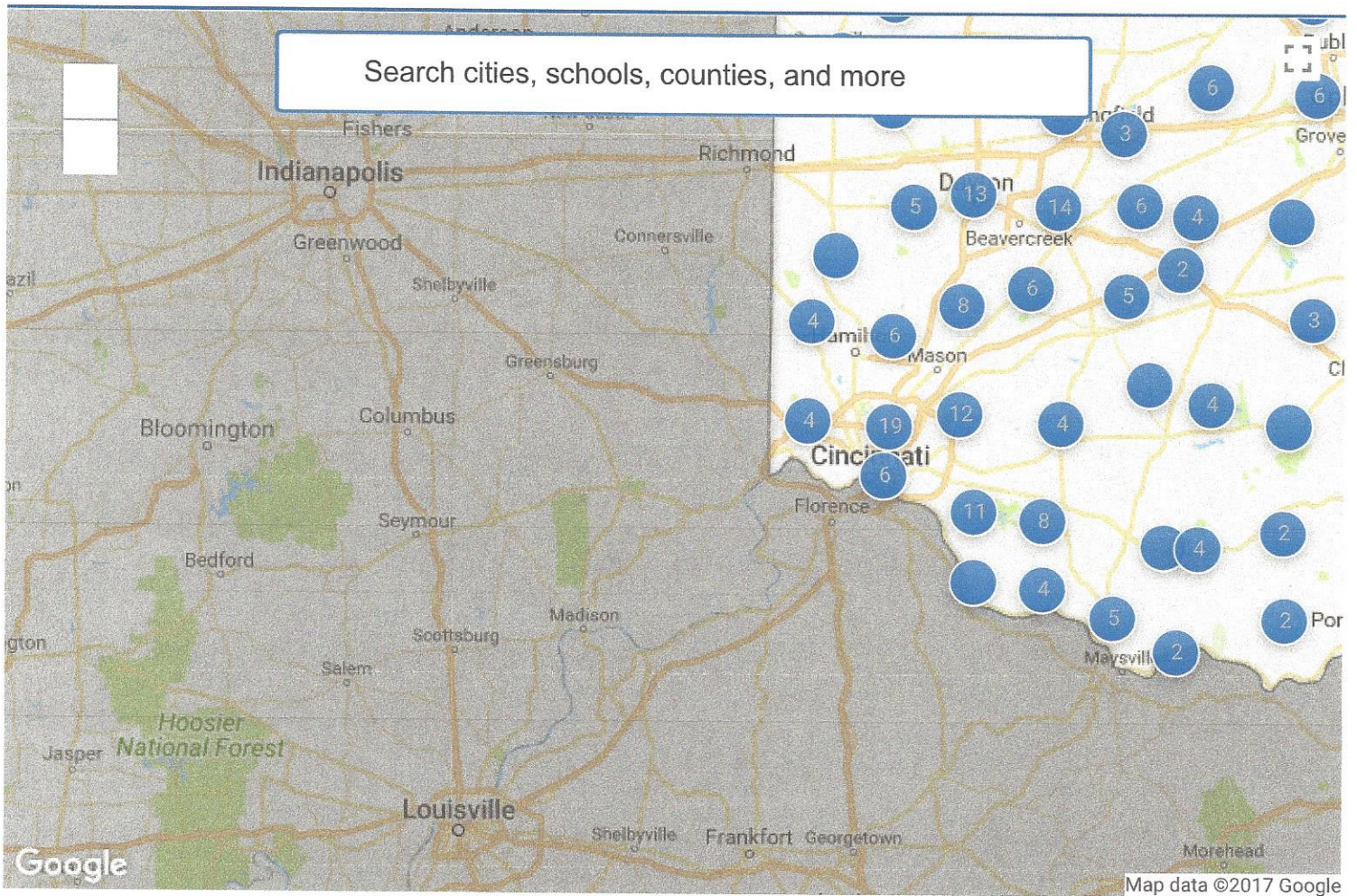
Type=Transactions&Display=account_category&levelOfGov=State&fiscalYear=2017&entityTypes=3&entities=GOV&accountCats=520&total=1107)

25 50 100 1 2 3 4 5

Date	Paid From	Paid To	Voucher ID	Amount
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	UNIGLOBE TRAVEL DESIGNERS	00003537	\$1,315.97
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	UNIGLOBE TRAVEL DESIGNERS	00003537	\$1,315.96
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	LEXIS NEXIS	00003537	\$980.00
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	LEXIS NEXIS	00003537	\$980.00
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	LEXIS NEXIS	00003537	\$980.00
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	LEXIS NEXIS	00003537	\$980.00
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	LEXIS NEXIS	00003537	\$980.00
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	UNIGLOBE TRAVEL DESIGNERS	00003537	\$533.87
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	00003527	\$387.53
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	00003537	\$332.25
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	SOUTHWEST AIRLINES	00003537	\$320.90
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	00003537	\$227.04
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	00003537	\$227.04
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	AMAZON	00003537	\$209.79
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	AT & T CORP	00003534	\$160.47
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVI...	00003536	\$113.52
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	BOLINDS SOLUTIONS SERVICES	00003537	\$89.26
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	FIREPROOF RECORDS CTR	00003535	\$84.21
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	BOLINDS SOLUTIONS SERVICES	00003527	\$79.99
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	00003533	\$59.60
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	BOLINDS SOLUTIONS SERVICES	00003537	\$49.09
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	WALL STREET JOURNAL	00003527	\$36.99
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	WALL STREET JOURNAL	00003537	\$32.99
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	STAPLES	00003537	\$22.49
04/28/2017	Office of the Governor	CVS PHARMACY	00003537	\$14.49



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Amanda

Amesville

Andover

Akron

Alliance

Amberley

Amherst

Anna

Ashland	Cincinnati	Fort Loramie	Jeffersonville	Mason
Ashtabula	Circleville	Fostoria	Johnstown	Massillon
Ashville	Medina	Franklin	Kenton	McArthur
Barberton	Clayton	Fredericktown	Kettering	McComb
Bay View	Coal Grove	Gahanna	Kirkersville	Mechanicsburg
Beachwood	Coldwater	Galena	Kirtland Hills	Mentor-on-the-Lake
Beaver	Columbiana	Gallipolis	Lakemore	Miamisburg
Beavercreek	Columbus	Geneva	Lakeview	Middleport
Belle Center	Commercial Point	Gibsonburg	Lakewood	Middletown
Bellefontaine	Conesville	Glenford	Lancaster	Midland
Belpre	Creston	Gloria Glens Park	Latty	Milford
Bethel	Cumberland	Grandview Heights	Lebanon	Milledgeville
Bettsville	Cuyahoga Falls	Green Springs	Leesburg	Miller City
Bexley	Cygnets	Greenhills	Leesville	Millersburg
Blakeslee	Danville	Groveport	Leetonia	Millersport
Bloomington	Dayton	Hamden	Liberty Center	Millville
Bluffton	Defiance	Hamilton	Lincoln Heights	Monroe
Bowersville	DeGraff	Harveysburg	Lithopolis	Montgomery
Bowling Green	Delaware	Haskins	Lordstown	Morrill
Bradner	Dennison	Hicksville	Lore City	Morrow
Brewster	Doylestown	Hilliard	Loudonville	Moscow
Brookville	Dresden	Hills and Dales	Lowell	Mount Eaton
Buckeye Lake	East Liverpool	Hillsboro	Lower Salem	Mount Gilead
Bucyrus	East Palestine	Holloway	Luckey	Mount Orab
Burbank	Eastlake	Hubbard	Macedonia	Navarre
Camden	Edgerton	Huber Heights	Madeira	New Albany
Canal Fulton	Elida	Hudson	Magnetic Springs	New Boston
Carrollton	Elmore	Huntsville	Malinta	New Carlisle
Catawba	Elmwood Place	Independence	Manchester	New Franklin
Centerberg	Fairborn	Indian Hill	Mansfield	New Holland
Centerville	Farmersville	Jackson	Mantua	New Knoxville
Chardon	Fayetteville	Jackson Center	Marble Cliff	New Lexington
Cheshire	Felicity	Jamestown	Marblehead	New Middletown
Chickasaw	Findlay		Mariemont	New Richmond
Chillicothe				

New Straitsville	Pataskala	Rossford	Steubenville	Wapakoneta
New Waterford	Peninsula	Rushville	Stoutsville	Warren
Newtown	Piketon	Russells Point	Stow	Waynesfield
Ney	Plain City	Russellville	Streetsboro	Waynesville
Niles	Pleasant City	Russia	Stryker	Wellston
North Baltimore	Pleasant Hill	Salem	Sugar Bush Knolls	Wellsville
North Canton	Pomeroy	Salineville	Sugar Grove	West Jefferson
North College Hill	Port Clinton	Sandusky	Sunbury	West Liberty
North Fairfield	Portsmouth	Scott	Swanton	West Millgrove
North Royalton	Powell	Sebring	Sylvania	West Salem
North Star	Proctorville	Seville	Tallmadge	Westfield Center
Norwalk	Quincy	Sharonville	Thornville	Weston
Oak Harbor	Racine	Shawnee Hills	Thurston	Whitehouse
Oak Hill	Rawson	Sherrodsville	Tiffin	Williamsport
Octa	Reading	Somerset	Toledo	Willoughby
Old Washington	Republic	South Amherst	Upper Arlington	Willshire
Ontario	Reynoldsburg	South Bloomfield	Urbancrest	Woodlawn
Ottawa	Richfield	South Lebanon	Valley Hi	Worthington
Ottawa Hills	Rio Grande	South Solon	Van Wert	Wren
Ottoville	Ripley	South Zanesville	Vanlue	Xenia
Otway	Risingsun	Spencer	Wadsworth	Youngstown
Oxford	Rittman	Spencerville	Wakeman	Zanesville
Painesville	Rocky River	Spring Valley	Waldo	Zoar
Parma	Roseville	St. Paris		

Townships

Adams (Defiance)	Ashtabula (Ashtabula)	Austintown	Berkshire (Delaware)	Boardman
Alexander	Auburn (Geauga)	Bainbridge	Berlin (Delaware)	Bratton (Adams)
Allen (Union)	Auburn (Tuscarawas)	Batavia	Bethel (Miami)	Bristol (Trumbull)
Amanda	Auglaize	Bath	Big Spring	Brown (Carroll)
Amherst (Lorain)	Austinburg (Ashtabula)	Beaver	Bloomfield (Logan)	Brown (Delaware)
		Beavercreek		Buck (Hardin)

Burton (Geauga)	Elizabeth (Lawrence)	Hubbard (Trumbull)	Liberty (Butler)	Muhlenberg
Butler (Montgomery)	Elkrun (Columbiana)	Huntington	Liberty (Delaware)	Nelson
Byrd (Brown)	Elyria (Lorain)	Jackson (Mahoning)	Liberty (Jackson)	New Jasper (Greene)
Caesarscreek	Fairfield (Butler)	Jackson (Clermont)	Liberty (Washington)	New London (Huron)
Canfield	Florence	Jackson (Franklin)	Liberty (Trumbull)	New Lyme (Ashtabula)
Canton	Franklin (Adams)	Jackson (Franklin)	Licking (Muskingum)	New Russia
Cass (Hancock)	Franklin (Clermont)	Jackson (Guernsey)	Lincoln (Morrow)	Newbury (Geauga)
Catawba Island	Franklin (Franklin)	Jackson (Jackson)	Loudon (Carroll)	Nimishillen
Chagrin Falls	Franklin (Warren)	Jackson (Montgomery)	Mad River	Norwich (Franklin)
Chardon	Franklin (Fulton)	Jackson (Stark)	Madison (Butler)	Ohio (Clermont)
Chatham	Gallipolis	Jackson (Sandusky)	Madison (Clark)	Ohio (Gallia)
Chester	Genoa (Delaware)	Jefferson (Ashtabula)	Madison (Highland)	Orange
Chesterfield (Fulton)	German (Fulton)	Jefferson (Franklin)	Madison (Jackson)	Osnaburg
Claridon (Geauga)	German (Clark)	Jefferson (Greene)	Madison (Richland)	Oxford (Butler)
Clearcreek	Good Hope	Jefferson (Jackson)	Marion (Clinton)	Oxford (Coshocton)
Colerain	Goshen	Jefferson (Montgomery)	Marion (Hocking)	Oxford (Delaware)
Columbia (Hamilton)	Goshen (Clermont)	Jefferson (Ross)	Marion (Morgan)	Painesville
Columbia (Lorain)	Grand	Jefferson (Scioto)	Marion (Hancock)	Paint
Concord (Delaware)	Green	Jerome (Union)	Marlboro	Paint (Highland)
Concord (Ross)	Green (Adams)	Knox (Jefferson)	Mead (Belmont)	Palmyra
Coventry (Summit)	Green (Hocking)	Lafayette (Medina)	Medina (Medina)	Paris
Danbury	Hamilton	Lake (Logan)	Meigs (Adams)	Paxton (Ross)
Deerfield (Ross)	Hardy	Lawrence (Stark)	Miami	Pease
Defiance	Harrison	Letart	Miami (Hamilton)	Perkins (Erie)
Delaware (Delaware)	Hartsgrove	Lewis (Brown)	Miami (Logan)	Perry (Lake)
Delaware (Hancock)	Hinckley	Lexington (Stark)	Milford	Perry (Logan)
Delaware (Hancock)	Homer (Medina)		Millcreek (Union)	Perry (Stark)
Eagle (Brown)	Hopewell (Muskingum)		Monclova	Perry (Montgomery)
East Union	Howland (Trumbull)		Monroe	Peru (Huron)

Pierce	Richland	Springfield (Mahoning)	Turtlecreek (Warren)	Washington (Brown)
Pierpont	Rose (Carroll)	Springfield (Gallia)	Tuscarawas (Coshocton)	Waterloo (Athens)
Pike	Ross (Butler)	Springfield (Hamilton)	Union (Brown)	Wayne (Adams)
Pike (Madison)	Russell	St. Albans	Union (Clinton)	Wayne (Warren)
Plain (Franklin)	Sagamore Hills	St. Joseph (Williams)	Union (Hancock)	Wayne (Muskingum)
Plain (Stark)	Salem	Stock (Harrison)	Unity (Columbiana)	Weathersfield
Pleasant (Brown)	Salem (Warren)	Stokes (Madison)	Vermilion (Erie)	Webster (Wood)
Pleasant	Salt Rock (Marion)	Sugar Creek	Violet	White Eyes
Pleasant (Madison)	Scioto	Sugar Creek (Wayne)	Walnut (Fairfield)	Whitewater
Poland	Scott (Adams)	Sugarcreek	Warren (Belmont)	Williamsburg
Portage (Hancock)	Scott (Brown)	Sullivan (Ashland)	Warren (Jefferson)	Winchester (Adams)
Porter (Delaware)	Sharon (Franklin)	Swan creek (Fulton)	Washington (Clermont)	Windham (Portage)
Prairie	Shawnee (Allen)	Tate (Clermont)	Washington (Logan)	Windsor (Ashtabula)
Radnor	Sheffield	Troy (Delaware)	Washington	Woodville
Randolph (Portage)	Somerford	Trumbull (Ashtabula)	Washington (Auglaize)	York (Athens)
Rarden (Scioto)	Springfield (Clark)			York (Medina)

Counties

Butler	Franklin	Henry	Meigs	Stark
Clermont	Greene	Jackson	Montgomery	Summit
Cuyahoga	Guernsey	Knox	Ottawa	Trumbull
Delaware	Hamilton	Lorain	Pickaway	Warren
Erie	Hancock	Lucas	Portage	Wayne
Fairfield	Hardin	Mahoning	Ross	Wood

Schools

Akron Public	Allen County Educational	Service Center	Beavercreek City	Black River Local
Alexander Local				Buckeye Local

Bucyrus City	Everest High School	Kirtland Local	New Richmond Exempt Village Schools	Ridgedale Local
Caldwell Exempted Village	Fairlawn Local	Lakeland Academy	New Riegel Local	Ripley Union Lewis Huntington Local
Canton Local	Fairport Harbor Exempted Village	Leetonia Exempted Village	Newton Falls Exempted Village	Riverdale Local
Cardington-Lincoln Local	Findlay City	Liberty Local	Niles City School District	Riverside Local (Lake)
Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy	Finneytown Local	Licking Heights Local	North Baltimore Schools	Riverside Local (Logan)
Cincinnati Public	Franklin Monroe Local	Lima City	North Fork Local	Rossford Exempted Village Schools
Clark-Shawnee Local	Gahanna Jefferson City School District	Lockland Local	North Royalton City	Saint Bernard-Elmwood City
Claymont City	Genoa Area Local	Lorain Educational Service Center	Northeastern Local	Sandusky City
Clearview Local	Georgetown Exempted Village	Lordstown Local	Northwest Local	Seneca East Local
Clermont Northeastern Local School	Grandview Heights City	Mad River Local	Northwest Ohio Educational Service Cente...	South Range Local
Clyde-Green Springs Exempted Village	Granville Exempted Village	Manchester Local	Northwestern Local	Southeastern Local
Columbia Local	Greeneview Local	Marion City	Northwood Local	Southwest Licking Local
Columbus City	Greenon Local	Marlington Local	Norwalk City	Southwest Local
Crestview Local	Greenville City	Martins Ferry City	Norwood City	Springboro Community City
Crestwood Local	Hardin Community	Mentor Exempted Village	OAK Leadership Institute	Stow-Munroe Falls City
Cuyahoga Falls City	Heath City	Mohawk Local	Ontario Local	Switzerland of Ohio Local
Cuyahoga Heights Local	Highland Local	Monroeville Local	Oregon City	Sylvania City Schools
Dayton Public	Hilliard City	Mount Gilead Exempted Village	Osnaburg Local	Talawanda City
Delphos City Schools	Holgate Local	Mount Vernon City	Otsego Local	Tecumseh Local
East Knox Local School District	Hope Learning Academy of Toledo	Nelsonville-York City	Ottawa Hills Local	Toledo City
East Liverpool City	Howland Local	New Albany-Plain Local	Perry Local	Trotwood-Madison City School District
East Muskingum Local	Huntington Local	New Philadelphia City	Pickerington Local	Trotwood-Madison City
Elgin Local Schools	Independence Local		Reading Community City	
	Jackson City		Reynoldsburg City	
	Kalida Local			

Trumbull Educational Service Center	Upper Arlington City	Wayne Local	Whitehall City	Worthington City
Tuslaw Local	Upper Scioto Valley Local	Wayne Trace Local	Williamsburg Local	Wyoming City
Union Local	Washington Local	Western Reserve Local	Wilmington City	Xenia Community City
		Westlake City	Winton Woods City	Youngstown City

Special Districts

Akron Municipal Court	Delaware County Court of Common Pleas	Municipal Court	(Mahoning)	Southern Ohio Port Authority
Alliance Municipal Court	Delaware Municipal Court	Henry County Court of Common Pleas	Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas	Stark County Court of Common Pleas
Anderson Township Park	Delaware Soil & Water Conservation	Holmes Fire	Montgomery County Municipal Court	Steubenville Municipal Court
Ayersville Water And Sewer	East Cleveland Public Library	Jackson City Library	North Baltimore Public Library	Stow Municipal Court
Barberton Municipal Court	Findlay Hancock County Public Library	Jackson County Court of Common Pleas	Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas	Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
Batavia-Union Cemetery	Fort Meigs-Union Cemetery	Jackson County Municipal Court	Ottawa County Municipal Court	Summit County Court of Common Pleas
BMRT Ambulance	Franklin County Court of Common Pleas	Joint Emergency Medical Service	Parma Municipal Court	Toledo Municipal Court
Boardman Township Park	Franklin County Municipal Court	Kirtland Public Library	Perry Public Library	Tri-City Park
Bradford Public Library	Greene County Court of Common Pleas	Knox County Court of Common Pleas	Pickaway County Court of Common Pleas	Upper Arlington Public Library
Centerville Washington Park	Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas	Lucas County Court of Common Pleas	Portage Soil and Water	Wayne County Court of Common Pleas
Chardon Municipal Court	Hamilton County Municipal Court	Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas	Rocky River Municipal Court	Wayne County Municipal Court
Circleville Municipal Court	Hancock County Court of Common Pleas	Mansfield Municipal Court	Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wellington Community Fire District
Clermont County Court of Common Pleas	Henry County (Napoleon)	Massillon Municipal Court	S.A.F.E. Safe Air for the Environment Co...	West Central Ohio Port Authority
Clermont County Municipal Court		Metroparks of the Toledo Area	Salem Public Library	Wood County Clerk of Courts
Cuyahoga Falls Library		Mill Creek MetroParks		

Wood County
Court of Common

Pleas

WVFD Joint Fire
District

Xenia Municipal
Court

Zanesville
Municipal Court

Colleges & Universities

Bowling Green
State University

Central Ohio
Technical College

Central State
University

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THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

December 9, 2014

Public spending should be public

Editorial

Too often in recent years, Ohio lawmakers and courts have gone in the wrong direction on open records – giving bureaucrats more justifications to hide how they’re spending taxpayer money and making it harder for reporters and citizens to fight back.

State Treasurer Josh Mandel’s Open Checkbook initiative is a welcome move back in the right direction, and we’re urging the state Senate to take action on it before disbanding Thursday.

Mandel campaigned for re-election in part on the idea that the treasurer’s office should be required to make state spending easily accessible. He has pushed the General Assembly to pass such a bill, and the House complied earlier this year but then it stalled in the Senate.

The treasurer’s office never needed a new law to put spending data online, and following his November win, the Republican debuted OhioCheckbook.com. It’s fairly simple to operate and yet full of data. The information is automatically plotted on consumer-friendly charts and able to be downloaded with the click of a button.

One interesting nugget: Sharonville-based paving contractor John R. Jurgensen Co. has been among the state’s 10 highest-paid companies for the past five years.

Mandel still wants the bill passed, as he is concerned that future treasurers might opt to make spending information less accessible. There’s certainly precedent for elected officials to remove public information from public view. Outgoing Probate Judge James Cissell was on the leading edge of online data access when, as Hamilton County clerk of courts, he created courtclerk.org. His successors, however, made most court documents password-protected, requiring media and other interested parties to apply for access.

The Senate State Government Oversight and Reform Committee held hearings on Mandel’s bill, and not a single opponent spoke. On the other hand, civic and public policy groups across the political spectrum – think Common Cause and the Buckeye Institute – have supported it, along with media across the state.

Still, the committee has let the clock run down on this General Assembly’s two-year term, which is expected to wrap up Thursday. If the bill doesn’t pass out of committee Wednesday and get a floor vote Thursday, Mandel will have to start from scratch in the next General Assembly.

What’s the holdup, senators?

BUSINESS COURIER

July 15, 2015

Cincinnati is opening up its checkbook to the Internet

By Tatum Hunter

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel and Cincinnati city leaders announced a partnership today at City Hall to put the city's spending online at OhioCheckbook.com in an effort to increase government transparency.

The city of Cincinnati announced a partnership on Wednesday with the Ohio treasurer's office to put its spending online at OhioCheckbook.com.

The website, created last year by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel with the purpose of increasing government transparency, shows more than \$408 billion in spending and 112 million transactions during the past seven years. This partnership makes Cincinnati the sixth city in Ohio to display its spending on the site.

Visitors to OhioCheckbook.com can search the database by keyword, department, category or vendor. The city will display its operating budget and checkbook level data on the site. The Cincinnati Retirement System will also display its pension information.

The service is paid for out of the state treasurer's budget and is free to Cincinnati taxpayers.

Before the creation of OhioCheckbook.com, the state was ranked "in the basement" in terms of government transparency, according to Mandel. Forty-sixth in the country, to be exact. After the website's launch, Ohio shot to first in the country.

Mandel said he hopes the partnership with Cincinnati will put "friendly pressure" on other Ohio cities, school districts and pension funds to sign on as well.

"My ultimate vision is to create an army of citizen watchdogs to hold politicians accountable," Mandel said.

While Mandel mentioned his belief in small government when discussing his motivation for investing in government transparency, he named public officials taking lavish trips with taxpayer money as one example of an accountability issue that this system can remedy.

"It's going to make them think twice before they stay at the Ritz Carlton," he said.

Mandel declined to comment on whether Cincinnati has any issues with irresponsible use of taxpayer money by public officials.

Local governments can also use the site to increase efficiency. They can look at what vendors other public entities are using to buy things like bulletproof vests for police officers or printer cartridges, seeing if they have any vendors in common and arranging to make bulk purchases.

Cincinnati city council member Amy Murray encouraged citizens to get involved and utilize the website.

"Hold us accountable," she said. "Look at the online checkbook. Let us know what you think."

Mandel and Cincinnati city manager Harry Black said this move along with the city's growing focus on big data to measure performance places Cincinnati at the forefront of local government transparency.

"I would challenge any other city in the country to match what we've accomplished here," Black said.

In an age of rapidly changing technology, Mandel stressed the need for local governments to keep up with the times.

"You can either be Blockbuster or you can be Netflix," he said.

Empowering taxpayers to follow the money

Op-Ed By Josh Mandel, Ohio Treasurer

As Treasurer of Ohio, I believe taxpayers have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. All too often, we the people aren't able to follow our money once we write a check to city hall, the state capital or Washington, D.C.

I believe that when we make government small in size and scope, we make the individual big. And in giving taxpayers a tool to follow every cent of their hard-earned tax money, OhioCheckbook.com helps to transfer the power from the politicians to the people.

As State Treasurer, I created OhioCheckbook.com to empower you to hold politicians' feet to the fire. And since its launch in 2014, we've reached many important milestones:

- **New National Standard:** As a result of OhioCheckbook.com, we brought Ohio's fiscal transparency ranking from 46th to first in the nation.
- **All 88:** Each of Ohio's 88 counties now have local governments who have posted their spending on OhioCheckbook.com.
- **Local Governments and Schools:** Nearly 1,200 local governments and school districts have joined the movement for statewide government transparency by partnering with my office to post their spending information online. Here in Miami County, there are three local governments participating, including Pleasant Hill, Bethel Township and the Bradford Public Library.
- **More Data Available:** OhioCheckbook.com now displays over \$598 billion of state spending over the past nine fiscal years, including over 164 million individual checks. This information is

online and at the fingers of anyone with an internet connection – everything from \$2 for a pack of pencils to \$2 million for road expenditures, and everything in between.

- **Public Universities:** We recently celebrated another significant milestone with the addition of the first public institutes of higher education on OhioCheckbook.com. Bowling Green State University, Central State University and the Central Ohio Technical College paved the way for other universities to follow by posting their finances online. This occasion marked the first time in history taxpayers are able to follow their money at the university level.

- **Public Pension Funds:** We made history by expanding OhioCheckbook.com to include Ohio's five statewide public pension funds, becoming the first state in the country to have all statewide public pension funds' operating expenditures online.

As Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis once said, "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." And I agree. By posting government spending online, citizens are able to play an active role in their government and help root out fraud, waste and abuse.

My hope is that more local governments in Miami County will continue to join me in my mission of empowering taxpayers to hold politicians accountable.

Visit OhioCheckbook.com to see if your community and schools are posting their spending. And if they refuse, I encourage you to show up at their city council meetings and school board meetings and ask them what they have to hide?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS OHIOCHECKBOOK.com?

OhioCheckbook.com is a first-of-its-kind government transparency website launched by the Ohio Treasurer's office. By displaying billions of dollars in state and local government checkbook-level spending, OhioCheckbook.com is empowering citizens to see exactly how their tax money is being spent.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE?

Participation is free! There is no cost to local governments who partner with OhioCheckbook.com. The Ohio Treasurer's office is covering all costs for local governments to post their checkbook-level spending online.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO UPLOAD MY DATA TO OHIOCHECKBOOK.com?

In most cases, the upload process takes just minutes and only a few clicks of the mouse.

WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF OHIOCHECKBOOK.com?

OhioCheckbook.com allows anyone with an internet connection to do "Google-style" searches of state and local spending while displaying interactive charts and graphs in a user-friendly format.

HOW MANY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & SCHOOLS HAVE COMMITTED TO OHIOCHECKBOOK.com?

To date, **more than 1,100** counties, cities, schools, townships and special districts are committed to posting their spending on OhioCheckbook.com.

WHY SHOULD LOCAL GOVERNMENTS POST THEIR CHECKBOOK ONLINE?

Technology is changing the way citizens access information and the way they expect information to be provided. Leaders at every level of government are increasingly leveraging technology to post public financial information online to increase transparency. By providing expenditures online, governments are proactively shining sunlight on decision making, building trust with constituents, and decreasing time-consuming public records requests.

WILL EACH CHECKBOOK WEBSITE INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRANDING?

Yes. Local governments have the ability to include a logo and custom message on their checkbook websites and to customize other aspects of how spending is presented.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DATA IS SUBMITTED?

Once data is submitted, the OhioCheckbook.com team will build the checkbook website and then schedule a time for the local government to review the website and ask questions. **No checkbook will be published without local government approval.**

**TO GET STARTED...****CONTACT OHIOCHECKBOOK.com**

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