



RALPH T. MEACHAM CPA MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Auditor Meacham Announces Participation in OhioCheckbook.com *First County in Ohio to Partner with State*

Mahoning County Auditor Ralph T. Meacham will hold a press conference with Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in the rotunda of the County Courthouse to announce that Mahoning County will be the first county in Ohio to participate in OhioCheckbook.com, the State of Ohio's online database of government spending.

"Along with other county officials, I am excited to announce that Mahoning County will be participating in OhioCheckbook.com. I have been working with Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel and his team for several weeks to usher in a new era of transparency and accountability. Mahoning County is taking a leadership role as the first county in Ohio to commit to this program. Mr. Mandel has offered this initiative without cost to the county," Meacham stated.

Last year, State Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, putting all state spending online for the first time in Ohio history. OhioCheckbook.com includes more than \$408 billion worth of spending over the past seven fiscal years, displaying approximately 112 million transactions and approximately 3.9 billion pieces of spending information. Mahoning County expenditures will be included in this database in the near future.

According to the State Treasurer's Office, OhioCheckbook.com is a first-of-its-kind government transparency website that shows taxpayers exactly how their tax money is being spent. This initiative sets a new national standard for transparency in state government and is designed to make government more open and accountable to taxpayers by allowing Ohioans to follow their tax dollars and see how public money is being spent.

Meacham stated, "Being part of any project that makes government accountable to its constituents is very exciting. Taxpayers have the right to know where their taxes are going. Making this data so easily accessible can help taxpayers make decisions at election time."

Meacham and Mandel encourage taxpayers to visit OhioCheckbook.com for further information and to search the database.

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