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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of Poland Township and Canfield Township Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com
Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over 1,100 Local Government and School Districts Partnering with OhioCheckbook.com

POLAND – Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced today the launch of Poland Township and Canfield Township’s online checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com. In December 2014, Treasurer 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 number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second year in a row.

Poland Township and Canfield Township are the fifth and sixth townships in Mahoning County to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com.

The following is a breakdown of today’s local government sites:

- Poland Township’s online checkbook includes over 13,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$10.7 million of total spending over the past five years.
- Canfield Township’s online checkbook includes over 4,900 individual transactions that represent more than \$4.7 million of total spending over the past four years.

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

“Transparency is key to all government,” said Poland Township Fiscal Officer Paul Canter. “We look forward to using OhioCheckbook.com to give our residents a better look at how the township manages its finances.”

“Canfield Township works hard to be as transparent as possible for its residents,” said Fiscal Officer Carmen Heasley. “The OhioCheckbook allows our Township to display our financial records in an easy, interactive format that will complement our efforts in maximizing the transparency of our records, thereby fulfilling an important responsibility for our Township.”

“Anytime you can open up government and give citizens access to decisions that are made is a good thing,” said State Representative John Bocchieri. “I’m glad to see Poland, Canfield and other localities joining this good government initiative.”

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.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of May 8, 2017 there have been more than 760,000 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$585 billion in spending over the past nine years, including more than 159 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

In March 2015, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “[Following the Money 2015](#)” report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46th to 1st in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel’s release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

In April 2016, U.S. PIRG announced that Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

The Treasurer's office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. "Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer's office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state," said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

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

- PolandTownshipMahoning.OhioCheckbook.com;
- CanfieldTownshipMahoning.OhioCheckbook.com.

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