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Arizona's State Treasurer launches 'transparent' website



AZ. State Treasurer Dean Martin. Photo/aztreasury.gov.

"Transparency" is a word often used by politicians to show they are in touch with the public but one that is rarely backed up with substantial action, until now. Tuesday Arizona State Treasurer Dean Martin unveiled a website that offers a "transparent" look into the states finances.

The website, www.azcheckbook.com, lists everything from the states daily balance to money spent by state agencies. For example; HSA (Department of Health Services) for the 2010 fiscal year spent \$1,320,024,718.88 while collecting only \$967,465,267.44 in revenue, an obvious deficit.

Martin said the website was two years in the making and a "labor of love." He is hopeful that citizens will visit the site to view exactly how their tax dollars are spent, stating; "You're being told you have no other options but raise taxes, well, here you go. There are a lot of options to save money in this state. . . . It's a lot harder to hide things when it's all on the Web."

While the word transparency appears over used if not abused by many in the political arena, Martin has delivered. Perhaps the launching of this website will encourage other politicians to

follow, if so, it's about time!

by **Christina Wijjes-Smit**