
How States Rank in Providing Online Access to Government Spending Data

Phineas Baxandall



Transparency saves money

- Identify waste, fraud and abuse
- More bidders, more competitive contracting
- Find opportunities to consolidate contracts
- Fewer public records requests
- Efficiency of a statewide spending dashboard

“The biggest savings we will never hear about...”

Scorecard reports 2010, 2011

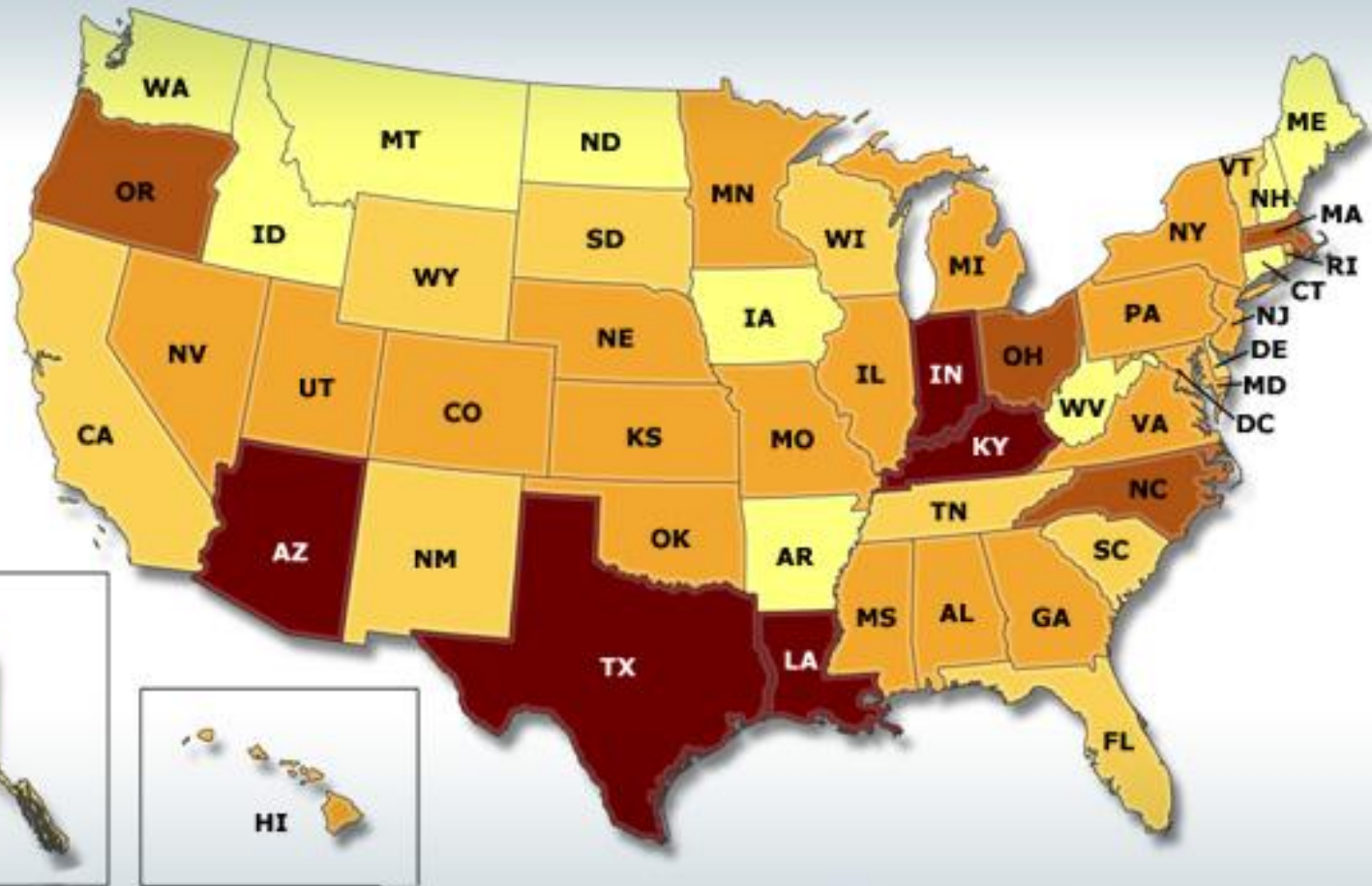
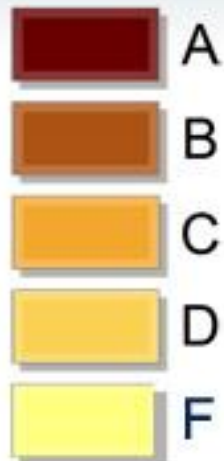


Following the Money

How the 50 States Rate in Providing
Online Access to Government Spending Data

2012 report will be
released on March 14

Grade



California

Grade	Point Total	Check Book Level Website	Search by Contractor	Search By Activity	Contract or Summary Information Available	Downloadable	Past Contracts	Information on Tax Expenditures	Economic Development Incentives and Grants	Feedback	Quasi Public Agencies	ARRA Funding Linked	Local/County Spending
D+	62	35	10	0	4	2	5	0	0	2	0	2	2

Website: <http://www.reportingtransparency.ca.gov>

■ Grade
■ Point Total

Check Book Level Website

Checkbook level transparency

Who? How much? For what?

Is access to information:

- ❑ One-stop?
- ❑ Comprehensive?
- ❑ Searchable?



Best practices (1)

- Searchable by vendor and by activity type
- Contracts or summary information available
- Downloadable data sets



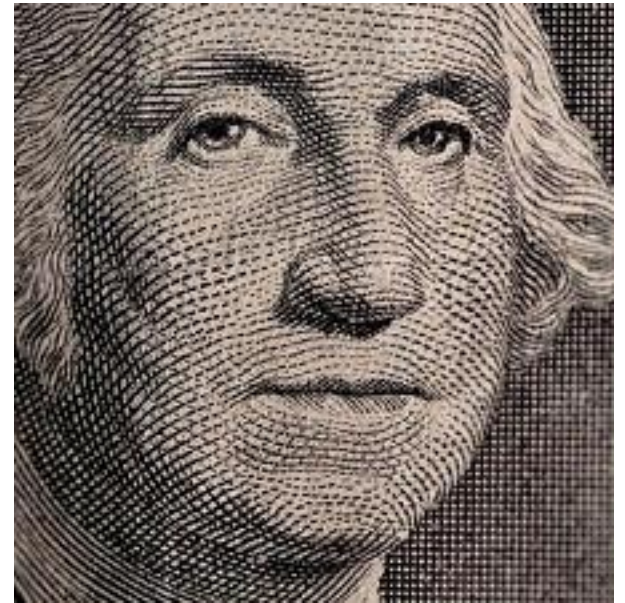
Best practices (2)



- Past spending available
- Tax expenditure information
- Economic development grants and incentives

Best practices (3)

- Feedback tools
- Quasi-public agencies
- ARRA spending
- Local/county spending



Future progress

Tax-increment financing (TIFs)

Private activity bonds (PABs)

Public-private partnerships (PPP)

Revenues

Debt

Geographic mapping

Custom alerts

Changed spending levels since past years

Spending per unit (lane mile, student, retiree, prisoner, etc)

STATE	GRADE	SCORE
Kentucky	A	96
Texas	A	96
Indiana	A-	93
Arizona	A-	92
Louisiana	A-	92
Massachusetts	B+	87
North Carolina	B	85
Ohio	B-	82
Oregon	B-	82
New Jersey	C+	78
Pennsylvania	C+	78
Virginia	C+	77
Missouri	C+	76
Alabama	C	74
Georgia	C	74
Nevada	C	74
Illinois	C	73
Kansas	C	73
Minnesota	C	73
New York	C	73
Hawaii	C	72
Maryland	C	71
Nebraska	C	71
Colorado	C	70
Michigan	C	70

STATE	GRADE	SCORE
Mississippi	C	70
Utah	C	70
Oklahoma	C-	66
Rhode Island	C-	66
South Dakota	D+	63
California	D+	62
Delaware	D+	61
New Mexico	D+	61
South Carolina	D+	61
Wisconsin	D+	61
Florida	D	59
Vermont	D	55
Wyoming	D-	50
Tennessee	D-	49
Alaska	D-	47
Connecticut	F	39
Iowa	F	32
Arkansas	F	28
West Virginia	F	28
Washington	F	22
Montana	F	16
New Hampshire	F	7
Idaho	F	6
North Dakota	F	6
Maine	F	0

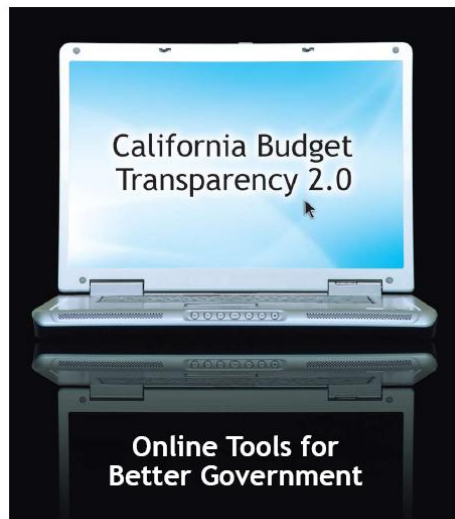
State	Grade	Point Total	Checkbook-Level Website	Search by Contractor	Search by Activity	Contract or Summary Information Available	Downloadable	Past Contracts	Information on Tax Expenditures	Economic Development Incentives and Grants	Feedback	Quasi-Public Agencies	ARRA Funding Linked	Local/County Spending	
Total Possible		100	35	10	10	10	2	5	10	10	2	2	2	2	
Kentucky	A	96	35	10	10	10	1	5	9	10	2	2	2	0	
Texas	A	96	35	10	10	10	2	5	9	7	2	2	2	2	
Indiana	A-	93	35	10	10	10	2	5	6	9	2	0	2	2	
Arizona	A-	92	35	10	10	10	2	0	9	10	2	2	2	0	
Louisiana	A-	92	35	10	10	5	2	5	10	9	2	2	2	0	
Massachusetts	B+	87	35	10	10	5	2	5	6	6	2	2	2	2	
North Carolina	B	85	35	10	10	5	0	0	9	8	2	2	2	2	
Ohio	B-	82	35	10	10	10	0	3	0	10	2	0	2	0	
Oregon	B-	82	35	10	10	3	2	0	10	8	2	0	2	0	
New Jersey	C+	78	35	10	10	3	2	5	7	2	2	2	0	0	
Pennsylvania	C+	78	35	10	10	10	0	5	0	6	0	2	0	0	
Virginia	C+	77	35	10	10	3	2	5	0	4	2	2	2	2	
Missouri	C+	76	35	10	10	3	2	5	0	8	1	0	2	0	
Alabama	C	74	35	10	10	5	2	3	0	4	1	2	2	0	
Georgia	C	74	35	10	10	3	2	0	6	2	2	2	2	0	
Nevada	C	74	35	10	10	5	0	5	0	2	1	2	2	2	
Illinois	C	73	35	10	10	3	0	0	0	10	1	2	2	0	
Kansas	C	73	35	10	10	3	0	5	6	0	2	0	2	0	
Minnesota	C	73	35	10	10	3	2	5	0	2	2	2	2	0	
New York	C	73	35	10	10	3	2	0	0	6	1	2	2	2	
Hawaii	C	72	35	10	10	5	0	5	0	4	1	0	2	0	
Maryland	C	71	35	10	0	5	0	3	6	6	2	2	2	0	
Nebraska	C	71	35	10	10	3	0	5	0	4	2	0	0	2	
Colorado	C	70	35	10	10	5	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	
Michigan	C	70	35	10	0	10	2	0	9	0	2	0	2	0	
Mississippi	C	70	35	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	
Utah	C	70	35	10	10	5	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	
Oklahoma	C-	66	35	10	0	0	0	0	10	6	1	2	2	0	
Rhode Island	C-	66	35	10	10	0	2	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	
South Dakota	D+	63	35	10	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	
California	D+	62	35	10	0	4	2	5	0	0	2	0	2	2	
Delaware	D+	61	35	10	10	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	
New Mexico	D+	61	35	10	10	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	
South Carolina	D+	61	35	10	0	3	2	3	0	0	2	2	2	2	
Wisconsin	D+	61	35	10	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Florida	D	59	35	10	0	5	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	2	
Vermont	D	55	35	0	0	3	2	5	0	6	2	2	0	0	
Wyoming	D-	50	35	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	
Tennessee	D-	49	35	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	0	
Alaska	D-	47	35	0	0	3	2	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	
Connecticut	F	39	0	10	10	5	0	5	0	4	1	0	2	2	
Iowa	F	32	0	10	10	5	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	
Arkansas	F	28	0	10	10	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
West Virginia	F	28	0	10	10	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Washington	F	22	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	6	2	2	2	2	
Montana	F	16	0	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
New Hampshire	F	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	
Idaho	F	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
North Dakota	F	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Maine	F	0	MUST BE A VENDOR TO ACCESS WEBSITE							0					

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U.S. Public Interest Research Group

<http://www.uspirg.org>



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CALPIRG
Education Fund

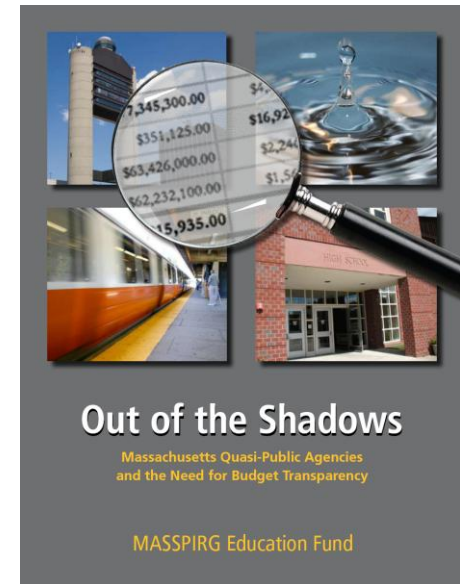


Getting The Best Bang For Your Buck

Transparency and Accountability Tools for Oregon Tax Subsidies

February 2010

OSPIRG
Foundation



Out of the Shadows

Massachusetts Quasi-Public Agencies
and the Need for Budget Transparency

MASSPIRG Education Fund

U.S. PIRG
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