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## Spending Transparency Train Arrives in Collin County

*Check Registers posted as part of Financial Transparency Project*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds Collin County, TX for launching its Financial Transparency Project on August 8, 2008. In doing so, Collin County subjects itself to taxpayer scrutiny by posting comprehensive expenditure information on the Collin County auditor's website.

Accessible at <http://public1.co.collin.tx.us/transparency>, the Financial Transparency Project allows taxpayers to view listings of checks written by county government going back to the beginning of the current fiscal year, which began in October 2007, in searchable PDF format. The website also features information on county financial trends over the last five years and allows interested taxpayers to request more information about individual expenditures.

**“I congratulate Collin County for its demonstrated leadership in the area of fiscal transparency.”** said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The Financial Transparency Project is great news for taxpayers, who ultimately foot the bill for all government expenditures at the federal, state and local levels. They deserve to track and scrutinize where each dollar is being spent.”**

In the last two years, a movement to expand fiscal transparency has gained steam across the country, with twelve states passing legislation to create single searchable online databases for government expenditures, and several governors and state constitutional officers creating their own websites to this effect. This building momentum has carried over to the local level, with Collin County leading the charge at the county level.

**“Collin County’s initiative sets a new standard for county government transparency. While we’d welcome additional search and sort functions currently not provided by PDF, as well as the posting of the actual expenditure documents, the launch of this project is an important step to empower taxpayers to become true fiscal watchdogs,”** continued Norquist. **“The spending transparency train is gaining steam at the local level, and taxpayers should call on their local governments to make sure this train makes a stop in their area.”**