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Commissioner DeWine Seeks to Bring Sunshine to Hamilton County

Commissioner's proposal would create searchable online database for local expenditures

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds the introduction of the Government Accountability in Spending Program (GASP) by Hamilton County Commissioner Pat DeWine. His proposal would establish a searchable online database which taxpayers could use to follow all Hamilton County spending.

Commissioner DeWine proposed the measure at a press conference held at the Hamilton County administration building on Thursday, May 15. Also speaking in support of the measure at the conference was Sandra Fabry, government affairs manager for Americans for Tax Reform and executive director of the Center for Fiscal Responsibility.

“Commissioner DeWine’s proposal to create a searchable database for county expenditures is not only a great idea for Hamilton County, it is also part of a growing movement to empower taxpayers to become fiscal watchdogs,” Fabry said. “Numerous states have already enacted spending transparency, but Commissioner DeWine’s GASP would set a new standard for localities, and we commend his leadership.”

GASP would guarantee that county payments, ranging from purchase orders, to electronic fund transfers, grants, leaseholds, contracts, and subcontracts, are subject to public scrutiny. The online database would offer the name and primary location of the recipients of county funds, the amount of funds expended, the type of transaction, the funding or expending agency, the budget program source, and a descriptive purpose of the funding action or expenditure. A similar measure at the state level, H.B. 420 sponsored by Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Mount Lookout), recently passed the Ohio house of representatives.

“The effort to empower taxpayers enjoys broad bipartisan support. It is not a right-left issue; it is a right-wrong issue. There may not be agreement on spending priorities, but there is agreement that taxpayers should be able to scrutinize the use of their tax dollars.” Fabry continued. “We encourage Commissioner DeWine’s colleagues to join him in this common sense effort, and move swiftly to implement GASP to help to eliminate the potential for fraud, waste and abuse and ultimately bring about more accountable government.”

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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