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Montco Launches Financial Transparency Platform
New tool provides instant access to county's finances in an interactive, digital format

Norristown, PA (July 13, 2015) – Montgomery County today announced the launch of a financial analysis platform that provides residents, elected officials, and staff unprecedented access to the county's finances.

The powerful, web-based platform, powered by OpenGov.com, transforms complex financial data into an interactive, digital format that enables better analysis and understanding of the county's finances. The intuitive design makes it easier to explore how taxpayer money is collected and spent. The platform may be accessed at www.montcopa.opengov.com.

"This administration has been the most open and transparent in Montgomery County history," said Josh Shapiro, chair of the county commissioners. "The vast majority of this information has been available online, but now taxpayers have a tool that will enable them to view all the material in easy to read and understand graphs and pie charts. It will provide a dynamic, panoramic view of our budget, our expenditures, and our revenues from the entire budget down to the department level."

The new platform displays six years of government spending and revenue detail in a user-friendly portal. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time and explore multiple views of financial data, including by fund, department, expense, or revenue type. The current year report will be dynamic and will provide insight into spending and revenues year-to-date on a quarterly basis.

While Montgomery County has taken several steps over the past three years to make an increasing amount of material available, this new initiative will make the county's finances even more transparent and understandable.

"By making our financial data easily accessible in an intuitive, digital format, we are demonstrating our commitment to open, efficient, and data-driven government," said Commissioner Val Arkoosh. Commissioner Bruce L. Castor, Jr. pointed out that the new platform would also be valuable to internal county staff. "The program will allow our administrators to more easily create custom reports, manage operations, and keep themselves informed of their individual budget situation throughout the year," he said.

Montgomery County is the latest of nearly 200 government entities across the nation to use the OpenGov platform. Five other Pennsylvania governmental entities are employing it, and Montgomery County becomes the fifth most populous government entity using the platform in the nation. The four larger entities are the Office of Management and Budget of the federal government, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego, CA.