



**NEW ONLINE PORTAL GIVES ST. JOSEPH RESIDENTS AN
INTERACTIVE LOOK AT THE CITY BUDGET**

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**(March 12, 2026)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Residents of St. Joseph now have a new way to explore how City funds are collected and spent, with the launch of the new Budget Transparency Portal.

The new portal, powered by ClearGov's Public Transparency Center, is an interactive online tool that presents City financial data through easy-to-read charts and graphs. Residents can access the portal at <https://bit.ly/STJMOClearGov> to explore City revenues and expenditures, review year-to-date financial data and compare historical information dating back to Fiscal Year 2013. The portal can also be found on the City's website at stjosephmo.gov on the Finance Department's page by clicking the green ClearGov transparency button.

The site begins with an overview section and includes additional tabs that residents can click to see exactly where revenue comes from and how funds are expended.

The portal also allows users to break down financial information by department (such as Parks or Public Safety) or by spending category (such as Salaries or Supplies). Residents can view data across all City funds or narrow their search to a specific fund. Once selections are made, interactive charts display historical comparisons and detailed budget information. For those who prefer working with spreadsheets, raw financial data is also available for download.

One of the portal's most engaging features is a personalized property tax tool located under the expenditures section. Residents can enter the amount of their property tax bill to see exactly how their contribution supports City services. The tool allows users to view their impact by department and shows how tax dollars help fund public safety, sewer services, parks, streets, general government and other essential services.

The transparency portal also includes a demographics tab featuring key data about St. Joseph, including population trends, household characteristics, income levels and housing information sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The launch of the Public Transparency Center builds on the City's adoption of ClearGov, a cloud-based budgeting software platform first implemented for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The software has helped streamline internal financial planning, improve the accuracy of personnel budgeting, strengthen long-term capital planning and make the City's digital budget book more user-friendly.

The City of St. Joseph Finance Department remains committed to making financial information accessible, understandable and transparent. The new Budget Transparency Portal represents another step toward ensuring residents have the tools they need to stay informed and engaged with their local government.

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