



Letter To The Editor: Under Plank's Plan, Wood River Benefits Madison County Residents

February 20 2021 7:10 AM



Letter To The Editor:

How much do you trust your government? If you're like me, you believe in a phrase President Reagan made popular: "Trust, but verify."

In April 2010, while serving on the county board before elected Treasurer, I put that philosophy into action when I called on Madison County officials to place our check

register online. Later that year, the county board finally agreed and made financial information available to residents. Ten years later, there is still much more work to be done. Even in my hometown of Wood River, city officials have resisted sharing information with the citizens they serve, and that must stop.

Jeremy Plank, CPA and reform-minded candidate for city council, recently unveiled his “A Transparent Wood River” initiative, which calls for utilizing the [*Ballotpedia.com* Municipal Transparency Checklist](#) to make Wood River more accountable to its residents. The checklist includes common sense items to disclose, including the city budget, audits, meeting agendas, open records information, contracts, and lobbying information.

I support Mr. Plank’s initiative, and have offered to partner with him to help Wood River transform its government into an accessible, accountable body that prioritizes the needs of its residents. As taxpayers, we have the right to see how every penny is being spent by our city government. After all, when we pay taxes and fees to the city, we’re expected to pay every single penny we owe. In 2021, there is absolutely no excuse for that information to not be publicly available at our fingertips, online, and in real time.

To learn more about Jeremy Plank’s plan, visit JeremyPlank.com.

Chris Slusser

Madison County Treasurer

Opinions expressed in this section are solely those of the individual authors and do not represent the views of RiverBender.com or its affiliates. We provide a platform for community voices, but the responsibility for opinions rests with their authors.