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State Websites Offer Fiscal Data on Local Governments.

Practices and platforms vary, but dashboards provide insight and enhance transparency

Most states require local governments to submit financial data—typically on an annual basis—and at least 38 now present that local fiscal data on easily accessible online platforms to give the public access to important information on their cities, towns, and counties.

The various state websites, which promote transparency by allowing a glimpse into local government finances, offer a range of features. Some enable users to compare localities, for example, while others let people create graphic visualizations of historical trends on local taxes and spending.

Among the states with such dashboards, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington provide assessments of local governments' fiscal health using financial indicators or overall scores to bring additional insights. For example:

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The Pew Charitable Trusts

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