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## **Clerk's Office Receives National Award for Excellence for Public Engagement in the Budget Process**

(Boise, ID) – The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) presented the Ada County Clerk's Office the 2020 Award for Excellence in Government Finance for its innovative and accessible Budget Explorer tool. The winners of the award were announced in the recent print issue of the [Government Finance Review Magazine](#), a national trade publication. The GFOA Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognize "innovative programs that exemplify outstanding financial management." Ada County was one of eight governmental organizations in the country to receive this distinction from the GFOA.

The Clerk's Office Budget Explorer tool was recognized for demonstrating a commitment to public engagement in the budget process. The Budget Explorer, available on the [Clerk's website](#), is an interactive tool that provides the public unfettered access to county budget and financial data in an interesting and intuitive format. It breaks down the budgeting process and highlights how the budget is distributed among service areas within the county and the impact these services have on individual residents' taxes.

The Budget Explorer was developed in 2019 as part of a broader effort by Clerk Phil McGrane to foster transparency and accountability. "Empowering citizens with information builds trust." said McGrane, "Better access to information brings about increased transparency. The Budget Explorer Tool is designed to give users a window into the budget in a uniquely user-friendly platform."

"For so many people who have used the Ada County Clerk's Budget Explorer tool, the response is the same – this is great! This is an easy to navigate tool that allows anyone to see how their tax dollars are spent. This is government transparency at its best, and the Board of Commissioners commends the Clerk's office for setting the standard for others to follow," the Ada County Board of Commissioners said in a statement.

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