



# Office of the Washington State Auditor

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## Pat McCarthy

### **Exit Conference: City of Stevenson**

The Office of the Washington State Auditor's vision is increased trust in government. Our mission is to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, and develop strategies that make government more efficient and effective.

The purpose of this meeting is to share the results of your audit and our draft reporting. We value and appreciate your participation.

#### **Audit Reports**

We will publish the following reports:

- Financial statement and federal grant compliance audits for January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 – see draft report.

#### **Audit Highlights**

We want to thank the City for its cooperation during the audit. Specifically, we want to express our appreciation to Leana for all the assistance she provided and the timeliness in which she responded to audit questions and requests. Her efforts to prepare for the audit by having records available to us before the start of the audit was a key factor in our ability to complete the audit under budget.

#### **Financial Statement Audit Communication**

We would like to bring the following to your attention:

- We did not identify any material misstatements during the audit.
- There were no uncorrected misstatements in the audited financial statements.
- The audit addressed the following risks, which required special consideration:
  - Due to the possibility that management may be able to circumvent certain controls, standards require the auditor to assess the risk of management override.

#### **Finalizing Your Audit**

##### **Report Publication**

Audit reports are published on our website and distributed via email in a .pdf file. We also offer a subscription service that notifies you by email when audit reports are released or posted to our website. You can sign up for this convenient service at <https://portal.sao.wa.gov/SAOPortal>.

##### **Management Representation Letter**

We have included a copy of representations requested of management.

## **Audit Cost**

At the entrance conference, we estimated the cost of the audit to be \$22,500 and actual audit costs will be less than that amount.

## **Your Next Scheduled Audit**

Your next audit is scheduled to be conducted in 2025 and will cover the following general areas:

- Accountability for public resources
- Financial statement
- Federal programs

The estimated cost for the next audit based on current rates is \$37,800, plus travel expenses. This preliminary estimate is provided as a budgeting tool and not a guarantee of final cost.

## **Working Together to Improve Government**

### **Audit Survey**

When your report is released, you will receive an audit survey from us. We value your opinions on our audit services and hope you provide feedback.

### **Local Government Support Team**

This team provides support services to local governments through technical assistance, comparative statistics, training, and tools to help prevent and detect a loss of public funds. Our website and client portal offers many resources, including a client Help Desk that answers auditing and accounting questions. Additionally, this team assists with the online filing of your financial statements.

### **The Center for Government Innovation**

The Center for Government Innovation at the Office of the Washington State Auditor offers services specifically to help you help the residents you serve at no additional cost to your government. What does this mean? We provide expert advice in areas like Lean process improvement, peer-to-peer networking, and culture-building to help local governments find ways to be more efficient, effective and transparent. The Center can help you by providing assistance in financial management, cybersecurity and more. Check out our best practices and other resources that help local governments act on accounting standard changes, comply with regulations, and respond to recommendations in your audit. The Center understands that time is your most precious commodity as a public servant, and we are here to help you do more with the limited hours you have. If you are interested in learning how we can help you maximize your effect in government, email us at [Center@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Center@sao.wa.gov).

### **Questions?**

Please contact us with any questions about information in this document or related audit reports.

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# City of Stevenson

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August 5, 2024

Office of the Washington State Auditor  
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Olympia, WA 98504-0031

To the Office of the Washington State Auditor:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the City of Stevenson for the period from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Representations are in relation to matters existing during or subsequent to the audit period up to the date of this letter.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are significant or material. Information is considered significant or material if it is probable that it would change or influence the judgment of a reasonable person.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made appropriate inquiries to be able to provide our representations, the following representations made to you during your audit. If we subsequently discover information that would change our representations related to this period, we will notify you in a timely manner.

## **General Representations:**

1. We have provided you with unrestricted access to people you wished to speak with and made available all relevant and requested information of which we are aware, including:
  - a. Financial records and related data.
  - b. Minutes of the meetings of the governing body or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
  - c. Other internal or external audits, examinations, investigations or studies that might concern the objectives of the audit and the corrective action taken to address significant findings and recommendations.
  - d. Communications from regulatory agencies, government representatives or others concerning possible noncompliance, deficiencies in internal control or other matters that might concern the objectives of the audit.
  - e. Related party relationships and transactions.
  - f. Results of our internal assessment of business risks and risks related to financial reporting, compliance and fraud.

2. We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with requirements related to confidentiality of certain information, and have notified you whenever records or data containing information subject to any confidentiality requirements were made available.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.
4. We have identified and disclosed all laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
5. We have complied with all material aspects of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.
6. We acknowledge our responsibility for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over compliance with applicable laws and regulations and safeguarding of public resources, including controls to prevent and detect fraud.
7. We have established adequate procedures and controls to provide reasonable assurance of safeguarding public resources and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
8. We have no knowledge of any loss of public funds or assets or other illegal activity, or any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud involving management or employees.
9. In accordance with RCW 43.09.200, all transactions have been properly recorded in the financial records.

**Additional representations related to the financial statements:**

10. We acknowledge our responsibility for fair presentation of the financial statements and believe financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting Standards Manual* (BARS Manual), which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
11. We acknowledge our responsibility for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.
12. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
13. Revenues are appropriately classified by fund and account in accordance with the BARS Manual.

14. Expenses are appropriately classified by fund and account, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
15. Ending cash and investments are properly classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.
16. The methods, data and significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates and related disclosures are appropriate and free from intentional bias.
17. The following have been properly classified, reported and disclosed in the financial statements, as applicable:
  - a. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances.
  - b. Related-party transactions, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties.
  - c. Joint ventures and other related organizations.
  - d. Guarantees under which the government is contingently liable.
  - e. All events occurring subsequent to the fiscal year end through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
  - f. Effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, assessments, violations of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements and other loss contingencies.
18. We have accurately disclosed to you all known actual or possible pending or threatened litigation, claims or assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. We have also accurately disclosed to you the nature and extent of our consultation with outside attorneys concerning litigation, claims and assessments.
19. We acknowledge our responsibility to include all necessary and applicable disclosures required by the BARS Manual, including:
  - a. Description of the basis of accounting, summary of significant accounting policies and how this differs from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
  - b. Disclosures similar to those required by GAAP to the extent they are applicable to items reported in the financial statements.
  - c. Any additional disclosures beyond those specifically required by the BARS Manual that may be necessary for the statements to be fairly presented.
20. We acknowledge our responsibility for reporting supplementary information (the Schedule of Liabilities and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards) in accordance with applicable requirements and believe supplementary information is fairly presented, in both form and content in accordance with those requirements.

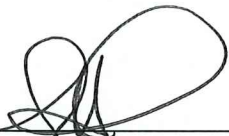
21. We have disclosed to you all significant changes to the methods of measurement and presentation of supplementary information, reasons for any changes and all significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation.
22. We believe there are no uncorrected misstatements that would be material individually and in the aggregate to the financial statements taken as a whole.
23. We acknowledge our responsibility not to publish any document containing the audit report with any change in the financial statements, supplementary and other information referenced in the auditor's report. We will contact the auditor if we have any needs for publishing the audit report with different content included.

**Additional representations related to expenditures under federal grant programs:**

24. We acknowledge our responsibility for complying, and have complied, with the requirements of 2 CFR § 200 *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*.
25. With regards to your audit of federal grant programs, we have made available all relevant and requested information of which we are aware, including:
  - a. All federal awards and related grant agreements (including amendments, if any), contracts with pass-through entities, service organizations and contractors, and correspondence.
  - b. All communications from federal awarding agencies, contractors, service organizations or pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance.
  - c. All information regarding corrective actions taken and management decisions or follow-up work performed by federal or pass-through agencies on any findings reported in the past.
  - d. All documentation related to the compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
  - e. Interpretations or other support for any situations where compliance with requirements might be questionable or unclear.
26. We have identified and complied with all direct and material compliance requirements of federal awards.
27. Management is responsible for establishing effective internal control and has maintained sufficient control over federal programs to provide reasonable assurance that awards are managed in compliance with laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements that could have a material effect on each of our federal awards.
28. Federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the accounting records from which the basic financial statements have been

prepared, and are prepared on a basis consistent with the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

29. Copies of federal program reports provided to you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to federal agencies or pass-through agencies, as applicable.
30. We are responsible for, and will accurately prepare, the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.



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Scott Anderson, Mayor



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Leana Kinley, City Administrator

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov). Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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### Other ways to stay in touch

- Main telephone:  
(564) 999-0950
- Toll-free Citizen Hotline:  
(866) 902-3900
- Email:  
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