



Washington State Auditor's Office

Government that works for citizens

Accountability Audit Report Spokane County

For the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

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Washington State Auditor's Office

February 11, 2016

Board of Commissioners
Spokane County
Spokane, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for County operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the County's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In the areas we audited, County operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The County also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Spokane County from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the County's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Contracts/agreements
- Conflict of interest
- Use of restricted funds
- Self-insurance requirements
- Procurement (bid law/purchase cards)
- County Assessor (property taxes/assessments)
- Fair & Expo Center (cash receipting/contracts)
- Public Works (safeguarding of small & attractive assets)
- Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Services (cash receipting)
- Superior Court (cash receipting/collections)
- Transfer stations (cash receipting/contracts)
- Parks & Recreation (cash receipting/contracts)

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the County's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the County's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

Federal grant programs

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the County's major federal programs, which are listed in the Federal Summary section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report includes a federal finding regarding compliance with allowable cost and subrecipient monitoring requirements for The County's Homeland Security Grant Program. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTY

Spokane County is the fourth largest county in the state with an estimated population of 484,500 residents. The local economy has traditionally relied on forest products, agriculture and mining. However, it has diversified to include technology firms, manufacturing companies and service industries. The County is also home to Fairchild Air Force Base, several institutions of higher education and large medical centers.

The County is governed by an elected, three-member Board of Commissioners. Additional elected officials and the appointed Chief Executive Officer oversee the County's daily operations and its 1,900 employees. The County provides services including public safety, road systems, recreational opportunities, court services, election services, regional planning, and property valuations and tax collections. For fiscal year 2014, the County operated on an annual general fund budget of approximately \$163 million.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Spokane County 1116 W. Broadway Budget Office Spokane, WA 99260
Contact:	Jennifer Stettler, Accounting Manager
Telephone:	(509) 477-4755
Website:	www.spokanecounty.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for Spokane County at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Deputy Director for Communications	Adam Wilson Adam.Wilson@sao.wa.gov (360) 902-0367
Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov