



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
Walla Walla County

For the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Published March 20, 2017

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Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

March 20, 2017

Board of Commissioners
Walla Walla County
Walla Walla, 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,

Pat McCarthy
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 Walla Walla County from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

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:

- Sheriff Department – citations
- Credit card transactions
- JIS system – Superior and District Court – monthly audit report review
- Superior and District Courts – cash receipting and bail payments by credit card
- Community Health Department – contract monitoring
- Self-insurance – unemployment compensation
- Payroll – Sheriff and Corrections Departments
- Property tax reconciliation – Assessor's system to Treasurer's system
- Property tax exemptions

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 program, which is listed in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTY

Walla Walla County serves approximately 59,844 citizens. The County provides an array of services including: property assessments, auto licensing, recording, law enforcement, prosecutorial and the courts, building, development, land use planning, juvenile and adult detention, public health, human services, public works, emergency medical and emergency management services, financial, birth and death certificates.

An elected, three-member Board of Commissioners governs the County. Additional elected officials help administer the County including Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, District Court Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, two Superior Court Judges and Treasurer. The County has approximately 272 full-time and 37 part-time employees and operates on a \$62.7 million annual budget. The County's revenues and expenses for 2015 are \$24,738,170 and \$20,441,263, respectively.

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|---|--|
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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for Walla Walla 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 | |
|---|--|
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