



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
eCityGov Alliance
King County

For the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017

Published December 20, 2018

Report No. 1022819





**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

December 20, 2018

Executive Board
eCityGov Alliance
Bellevue, 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 Alliance 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 independent audit report on the Alliance's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the 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 RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Alliance operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the eCityGov Alliance from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

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.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Alliance'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, based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Procurement cards – review of policies and purchasing activity
- Membership dues & fees – review of rate models and Partner/Subscriber billings
- Contracts & agreements – new and terminated Partner/Subscriber agreements
- Procurement – purchases of personal services for consulting
- Interlocal agreements – compliance with Alliance interlocal during restructuring
- Payroll – special recognition awards

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The eCityGov Alliance was formed in 2001 by nine cities located in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. The cities partnered to form an interlocal Alliance with a mission of providing convenient and consistent online services to the public.

The Alliance is governed by an Executive Board, made of six members, one from each partner city. The Board has final decision making authority on all issues, and exercises all powers of the Alliance. The Executive Board may delegate day-to-day responsibilities to the Alliance Executive Director, and can assign specific tasks to other committees within defined parameters. The Executive Board, operating under the interlocal agreement (ILA), includes Bellevue, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Sammamish, and Snoqualmie. In addition to the partner cities, there are over 20 public agencies that subscribe to one or more of the services offered by the Alliance. Subscribers include cities, counties, special purpose districts, libraries, housing authorities, and more. The Alliance serves a population base of over 1,650,000 in Washington State, with current service offerings of MyBuildingPermit, Northwest Properties, and GovJobsToday. The Alliance's operating expenses were \$1 million and \$1.1 million for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, respectively.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the eCityGov Alliance 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.

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