



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
City of Bellevue

For the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Published December 24, 2020

Report No. 1027501





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

December 24, 2020

Council
City of Bellevue
Bellevue, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor 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 City operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the City'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

Americans with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will make this document available in alternative formats. For more information, please contact our Office at (564) 999-0950, TDD Relay at (800) 833-6388, or email our webmaster at webmaster@sao.wa.gov.

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

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

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the City of Bellevue from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

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 obtaining evidence about the City's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the year ended December 31, 2019, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Insurance and bonding – compliance for controls and administration over health and welfare, general liability, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation programs.
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) disbursements – review of controls and test EFT transactions
- Cash Receipting – receivables and adjustments – gain understanding of receivable and related adjustments recorded in independent cash receipting system and the City's general ledger.

- IT controls – review controls over user access and data backup and recovery for the City’s accounting system
- Procurement – compliance and administration over public works projects

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the City's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the City'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 City'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>.

Special investigations

The State Auditor's Office issued a report on a potential loss of public funds at the City. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

The City of Bellevue was incorporated in 1953. It is the fifth largest city in the state of Washington, with a population of 145,300 residents. It is located east of Lake Washington and west of Lake Sammamish. The surrounding cities include Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah and Newcastle.

The City operates under a council-city manager form of government, with seven elected Council Members, one of whom is selected by the Council to serve as Mayor for a two-year term. The City adopts a two-year budget. The 2019-2020 biennium combined operating and capital budgeted expenditures are approximately \$1.6 billion. The City's 1,381 regular and permanent employees provide the following services: police and fire protection, water/sewer/storm utilities, community and economic development, transportation and public works, parks and recreation including two golf courses, an aquatic center, tennis center, botanical gardens, marina, skate park and senior, youth and community centers, and performing arts theaters. The City created the Bellevue Convention Center Authority in December 1989. The purpose of the Authority is to develop, promote and operate a convention center. Upon issuance of Special Obligation Revenue Bonds in 1991, the Authority constructed the convention center known as Meydenbauer Center, which opened for business on September 13, 1993.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Bellevue 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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