



Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy

# Accountability Audit Report

# Washington State Patrol

For the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024

*Published June 9, 2025*

Report No. 1037465



Scan to see another great way  
we're helping advance  
#GoodGovernment



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

June 9, 2025

Chief John R. Batiste  
Washington State Patrol  
Olympia, 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 Agency 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 Agency'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 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](mailto:webmaster@sao.wa.gov).*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Results..... 4

Related Reports..... 5

Information about the Agency ..... 6

About the State Auditor's Office..... 7

## AUDIT RESULTS

### Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Agency 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 Washington State Patrol from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

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 43.09.310, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all state agencies. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Agency'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 years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Firearms background check program – implementation and revenue collection
- Overtime expenditures – use, tracking, and documentation of overtime expenditures
- Travel expenditures – use, tracking, and documentation of travel expenditures
- Vendor disbursements – use, tracking, and documentation of vendor expenditures

## RELATED REPORTS

### Financial

We perform an annual audit of the statewide basic financial statements, as required by state law (RCW 43.09.310). Our opinion on these financial statements is included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR reflects the financial activities of all funds, organizations, agencies, departments and offices that are part of the state's reporting entity. The results of that audit are published in a report issued by the Office of Financial Management in December of each year and can be found at [www.ofm.wa.gov](http://www.ofm.wa.gov).

### Federal programs

In accordance with the Single Audit Act, we annually audit major federal programs administered by the state of Washington. Rather than perform a single audit of each agency, we audit the state as a whole. The results of that audit are published in a report issued by the Office of Financial Management in March of each year.

### Performance audits

Initiative 900, approved by voters in 2005, gives the State Auditor's Office the authority to conduct independent performance audits of state and local government entities. Performance audits may include objective analysis on ways to improve program performance and operations, reduce costs and identify best practices.

We issued the separate performance audit report, Civil Asset Forfeiture: Strengthening transparency and protections for property owners which is available on our website, <https://portal.sao.wa.gov//ReportSearch>.

### Other reports

We issued reports on agreed-upon procedures performed at the Agency. That report is available on our website, <https://portal.sao.wa.gov//ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Washington State Patrol provides public safety services across Washington State. These services include traffic enforcement on state highways, commercial vehicle safety and security on the state ferry system. Additional services include maintaining criminal records and criminal history databases, conducting criminal investigations, participating in narcotics task forces, providing forensic laboratory services, which include the state Crime and Toxicology laboratories, and delivering fire preparedness and prevention services through the Office of the State Fire Marshall. The Agency is based in Olympia, but has multiple offices statewide, staffed with approximately 2,400 employees. The Governor appoints the Chief of the Washington State Patrol.

For fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the Agency's operating budget was approximately \$882 million. The Agency is primarily funded by the State Patrol Highway Account, which derives its revenue from basic vehicle registration fees. In addition, the Agency has several restricted accounts with dedicated sources of revenue including fingerprint and background check fees, fire training fees, crime analysis fees, fireworks licenses and breath test fines.

Contact information related to this report	
Contact:	Kelly Sanders, Audit Section Manager
Telephone:	(360) 596-4142
Website:	<a href="http://www.wsp.wa.gov">www.wsp.wa.gov</a>

*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Washington State Patrol at <https://portal.sao.wa.gov//ReportSearch>.

## 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.

### Stay connected at [sao.wa.gov](http://sao.wa.gov)

- [Find your audit team](#)
- [Request public records](#)
- Search BARS Manuals ([GAAP](#) and [cash](#)), and find [reporting templates](#)
- Learn about our [training workshops](#) and [on-demand videos](#)
- Discover [which governments serve you](#) — enter an address on our map
- Explore public financial data with the [Financial Intelligence Tool](#)

### Other ways to stay in touch

- Main telephone:  
(564) 999-0950
- Toll-free Citizen Hotline:  
(866) 902-3900
- Email:  
[webmaster@sao.wa.gov](mailto:webmaster@sao.wa.gov)