

FACTS ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE



The State Auditor's Office is established by 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.

Our mission is to be the public's advocate for government accountability. Our primary service is the performance of regular financial and legal compliance audits of all state agencies and local governments. We also perform fraud, whistleblower, and other special investigations. As an elected office, 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.

The State Auditor's Office has 300 employees who are located strategically around the state to deliver our services effectively and efficiently. Approximately 65 percent of our staff are certified public accountants or hold other certifications and advanced degrees.

We audit more than 2,400 local governments in Washington. Local governments include all cities, counties, schools, ports, and several types of special purpose districts. Results of these audits are published in individual audit reports.

We also audit all state agencies, boards, and commissions (including public colleges and universities), and is required to annually audit the State of Washington's General Purpose Financial Statements. Results of these audits are published in the State of Washington's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report issued by the Office of Financial Management and in the Statewide Single Audit Report issued by our Office.

The Technical Services team prescribes local governments' uniform budgeting, accounting and reporting systems; plans and publishes audit practice aids and provides training and technical assistance; prescribes the accounting manual for public school districts jointly with the Superintendent of Public Instruction; annually publishes Local Government Comparative Statistics; and coordinates our audit efficiency and quality assurance program.

We also administer the State Employee Whistleblower Program and investigate citizen complaints.

Directory of Key Officials

State Auditor

Deputy State Auditor – Audit Services

Deputy State Auditor – Local and State Governments Liaison

Deputy State Auditor – Policy and Budget

Manager - Communications Program

Brian Sonntag, CGFM

Chuck Pfeil, CPA

Mike Murphy

Linda Long, CPA, CGFM

Mindy Chambers

Web Site Address

<http://www.sao.wa.gov/>