

# **FACTS ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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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 consists of 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.

## **Audit Services**

Audit Services performs audits of 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 for the various entities.

Audit Services also audits 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 implements audit practice aids, 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.

In addition to its other responsibilities, Audit Services administers the Employee Disclosure or "Whistleblower Act" and investigates citizen complaints.

## **Management Services**

Management Services is responsible for all administrative functions in the office, including budgeting, accounting, personnel, training, information technology, text processing, and purchasing.

## **Directory of Key Officials**

**State Auditor**  
**Chief Deputy State Auditor**  
**Deputy State Auditor - Government and Citizen Affairs**  
**Deputy State Auditor - Policy and Communications**  
**Deputy State Auditor - Management Services**  
**Deputy State Auditor - Local Government Liaison**

**Brian Sonntag, CGFM**  
**Ken Raske**  
**Linda Long, CPA, CGFM**  
**Jerry Pugnetti**  
**Chuck Pfeil, CPA**  
**Mike Murphy**

Web Site Address

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