



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
Washington Cities Insurance Authority

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

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

November 1, 2018

Board of Directors
Washington Cities Insurance Authority
Tukwila, 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 Authority 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 Authority'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, Authority 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 Washington Cities Insurance Authority from January 1, 2017 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 Authority'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 year ended December 31, 2017, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Legality of investments and investments in derivatives
- Authority solvency, claims handling, and insurance
- Compliance with elements of the Open Public Meetings Act and Board approval of Authority disbursements

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the Authority's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Authority's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORITY

Washington Cities Insurance Authority was formed to provide member cities, towns and interlocal entities with comprehensive and economical liability coverage. The Authority helps members to reduce the amount and frequency of losses and to decrease the cost incurred in the handling and litigation of claims. Subsequently, the Authority has expanded into a group property insurance program, boiler and machinery, crime and fidelity, cyber insurance program. The Authority administers a joint protection program through which the members jointly pool and self-insure losses and claims, and jointly purchase excess reinsurance.

A Board of Directors governs the Authority's operations. The Board is composed of one representative from each member city, town and interlocal entity. The Board appoints an Executive Director to oversee the Authority's daily operations as well as its 21 employees. For 2017, the Authority had annual operating expenses of approximately \$50 million.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Washington Cities Insurance Authority 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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