

Washington State Auditor's Office
Accountability Audit Report

Grays Harbor County

Report Date
November 6, 2013

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WASHINGTON
TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor
Troy Kelley**

November 25, 2013

Board of Commissioners
Grays Harbor County
Montesano, Washington

Report on Accountability

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your County to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on Grays Harbor County's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR

Table of Contents

Grays Harbor County
November 6, 2013

Audit Summary 1

Related Reports 2

Description of the County 3

Audit Summary

Grays Harbor County November 6, 2013

ABOUT THE AUDIT

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Grays Harbor County from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the County. We also determined whether the County complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Open Public Meetings Act
- General revenue and expenditures
- Internal controls
 - Payroll
 - Cash receipting
 - Accounts payable
 - Public Health
 - Fair
- Bail bonds (prior year follow-up)
- Cost allocation (prior year follow-up)
- Financial condition
- Assessor's Office
- Sheriff's Office
- Public Services Department
- Third-party cash receipting
- On-call contracts
- Contracts and agreements

RESULTS

In the areas we examined, the County's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The County also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

Related Reports

**Grays Harbor County
November 6, 2013**

FINANCIAL

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

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the County's major federal programs, which are listed in the Federal Summary section of the financial statement and single audit report.

Description of the County

Grays Harbor County November 6, 2013

ABOUT THE COUNTY

Grays Harbor County is home to approximately 71,600 residents. The County is governed by an elected, three-member Board of Commissioners. Additional elected officials include Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer. The County also has three Superior Court Judges.

For 2012, the County operated on an annual budget of \$98 million. The County has approximately 375 employees who provide public safety (sheriff and judicial services), construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, sanitation facilities, health and social services, cultural and recreational facilities and activities, planning and zoning services and general administrative services.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

These officials served during the audit period:

Board of Commissioners:

District 1
District 2
District 3

Terry Willis
Mike Wilson
Herb Welch
Gordon Godfrey
F. Mark McCauley

Superior Court Judges:

David Edwards
Stephen Brown
Thomas Copland

District Court Judges:

Rick Hole

Assessor
Auditor
Clerk
Coroner
Prosecuting Attorney
Sheriff
Treasurer

Vern Spatz
Cheryl Brown
Daniel Burns
H. Steward Menefee
Michael Whelan
Ron Strabbing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Budget Director	Brenda Sherman
Central Services Director	Dale Gowan
County Road Engineer	Russell Esses
Health and Social Services Director	Joan Brewster
Human Resource/Budget Manager	Marilyn Lewis
Planning and Building Division Director	Lee Napier
Clerk of the Board	Donna McCallum
Environmental Health Director	Jeff Nelson
Facility Services Director	Dennis Selberg/Randy Sheppard
Fair/Events/Tourism Manager	Mike Bruner
Forestry Director	Larry Smith
Utilities and Development Division Director	Kevin Varness

COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Grays Harbor County
100 W. Broadway, Suite 33
Montesano, WA 98563

Phone: (360) 964-1559

Website: www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us

AUDIT HISTORY

We audit the County annually. The 2010 audit reported an accountability finding for its declining financial condition. The prior and current audits are free of accountability findings.



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.

Our mission is to work with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. 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.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

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 and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

State Auditor
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Director of Performance and State Audit
Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of State Audit
Deputy Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of Local Audit
Deputy Director of Quality Assurance
Deputy Director of Communications
Local Government Liaison
Public Records Officer
Main number
Toll-free Citizen Hotline

Troy Kelley
Doug Cochran
Chuck Pfeil, CPA
Kelly Collins, CPA
Jan M. Jutte, CPA, CGFM
Sadie Armijo
Mark Rapozo, CPA
Barb Hinton
Thomas Shapley
Mike Murphy
Mary Leider
(360) 902-0370
(866) 902-3900

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