



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

**Accountability Audit Report**  
**City of Issaquah**

**For the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019**

**Published November 25, 2020**

**Report No. 1027296**





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

November 25, 2020

Mayor and City Council  
City of Issaquah  
Issaquah, 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 City 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 City'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

***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.....                  | 6 |
| Information about the City.....       | 7 |
| About the State Auditor's Office..... | 8 |

# AUDIT RESULTS

## Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, City 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 City of Issaquah from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

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 obtaining evidence about the City'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 December 31, 2019 and 2018, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Financial condition – review of fiscal sustainability
- Self-insurance – compliance for controls and administration over health and welfare and unemployment compensation programs
- Accounts payable – review of controls and test of general disbursements, credit card transactions, travel expenditures and employee reimbursements for compliance with City policies and state statutes and to ensure transactions are properly supported, approved, and for an allowable purpose
- Electronic funds transfers (EFT) disbursements – review of controls for EFT transactions

- Bank authorizations – review authorized signers for safeguarding of assets
- Interfund loans – review for compliance with City policies and state statutes

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the City's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the City's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

### **Federal grant programs**

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the City's major federal program, which is listed in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report includes a federal finding regarding the Highway Planning and Construction Cluster suspension and debarment compliance requirements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

The City of Issaquah serves approximately 39,509 citizens in east King County. The City provides services such as water, sewer and storm water utilities, police, development services, economic development, parks and recreation, support services, Municipal Court and cemetery.

The City has an elected Mayor as well as seven elected council members. The Mayor appoints, and Council approves, the City Administrator who oversees the City's daily operations and approximately 335 budgeted full- and part-time employees. The City operated on an annual general fund budget of approximately \$52 million and \$64 million for 2018 and 2019, respectively.

### Contact information related to this report

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Address:   | City of Issaquah<br>P.O. Box 1307<br>Issaquah, WA 98027-1307     |
| Contact:   | Beth Goldberg, Finance Director                                  |
| Telephone: | (425) 837-3056   |
| Website:   | <a href="http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us">www.ci.issaquah.wa.us</a> |

*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Issaquah 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.

| <b>Contact information for the State Auditor's Office</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Public Records requests</b>                            | <a href="mailto:PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov">PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov</a> |
| <b>Main telephone</b>                                     | (564) 999-0950   |
| <b>Toll-free Citizen Hotline</b>                          | (866) 902-3900   |
| <b>Website</b>  | <a href="http://www.sao.wa.gov">www.sao.wa.gov</a>                     |