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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Releases Performance Measurement Report

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ST. PAUL (9/10/2012) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2012 Performance Measurement Report. The report includes the results of performance measures of cities and counties which participated in the performance measurement system developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation.

The measures were designed to aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of services provided by counties and cities, and to measure residents' opinions of those services. In 2012, there were 61 cities (7%) and 25 counties (29%) that participated and were successfully certified by the Office of the State Auditor. In contrast, 113 cities (13%) and 38 counties (44%) were successfully certified in 2011, the first year of the program. The cities and counties that are certified to the Minnesota Department of Revenue will receive additional local government aid up to \$25,000 and an exemption from levy limits if any are in effect for participating in the program.

The electronic report contains live links to the information reported by each of the 61 cities and 25 counties that were certified in the standards measurement program for 2012. **"This report provides a unique opportunity to look at both the results of the measures of services from many different communities around the state and at resident's opinions of the efficacy of those services provided,"** said Otto.

"The adoption and implementation of performance measures and the follow-up survey are ways of opening up a constructive dialogue between residents and their local officials about the services their tax dollars buy. For example, if residents rate the condition of their roads as poor and the pavement condition rating also shows that they are in poor condition, it can allow for a constructive conversation between local officials and their constituents about whether the community wants to make an additional investment to improve the condition of the roads."

The Council on Local Results and Innovation was created by the Legislature in 2010 to establish a performance measurement program and to serve as a statewide resource for the development, promotion, and implementation of local government performance measurement systems. Participation in the standards measurement program is voluntary.

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The full report, which includes live links, can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20120821.005>.

To view the amount of local government aid reimbursed by the Department of Revenue to certified cities and counties, please go to:

http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/local_gov/prop_tax_admin/Pages/lpa.aspx.

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.