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## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **State Auditor Otto Releases 2013 Local Government Performance Measurement Report**

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**ST. PAUL (8/16/2013)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the 2013 Performance Measurement Report. The report includes the results of performance measures of cities and counties which participated in the performance measurement system established 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 2013, there were 47 cities (6%) and 22 counties (25%) that participated and were successfully certified by the Office of the State Auditor. In contrast, 62 cities (7%) and 25 counties (29%) were certified by the Office of the State Auditor in 2012. The cities and counties that were certified to the Minnesota Department of Revenue in 2013 will receive additional local government aid up to \$25,000 for participating in the program.

The decrease in participation in 2013 may be due to a change in state law. In 2013, the Legislature passed levy limits for taxes levied in 2013. Cities and counties that were certified for the performance measures program in 2013 are not exempt from these levy limits because they are not codified under statute. Some cities and counties reported frustration over this legislative change and did not participate in the program this year.

**“The Performance Measurement Program is a valuable program for both the taxpayers and cities and counties. 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,” Auditor Otto said. “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 residents on whether additional investments should be made to improve the condition of the roads.”**

The report, which contains live links to the results of the performance measurements reported by cities and counties, can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20130731.000>.

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](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 18<sup>th</sup> State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](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>.*