



State Auditor
Julie Blaha

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

February 12, 2021



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1. Message from Auditor Blaha

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) plays a crucial role when it comes to understanding the numbers. Our data analysis work at this time of year focuses on helping state legislators make good and informed decisions, especially when it comes to local government.

One of the reports from the OSA getting a fair amount of attention is our 2019 Asset Forfeiture Report (find it here: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=2019AssetForfeitRpt>). We are using the report to help give the debate around reforming asset forfeiture in Minnesota a grounding in facts.

Another report that informs legislators is our Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Legislative Report. We released our annual report this week and we hope our data will lead to deeper understanding of this important program. More information can be found in item #3.

Now that you're thinking about the numbers, remember that you can reach out to us for any of your local government data questions. If we don't have the answer, we will help you find who does.

2. Released: Investment Performance Information

Minnesota Statute requires the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) to annually provide to volunteer fire relief associations information on the investment performance of the Minnesota State Board of Investment and on the voluntary Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association. The 2021 Investment Performance Information document, which provides information for the 2020 calendar year, can be found on the OSA website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=pensionDocs>

3. Released: 2019 TIF Annual Legislative Report

This week State Auditor Julie Blaha released the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Legislative Report. The Report summarizes information reported by 403 development authorities for 1,648 districts for calendar year ended December 31, 2019, and provides a summary of the violations cited in the limited-scope reviews conducted by the Office of the State Auditor in 2020. The Report can be accessed at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=2019TIFLegRpt>

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Report Evidence of Wrongdoing

Local government officials and employees must notify the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) whenever evidence of theft, embezzlement, or the unlawful use of public funds or property is discovered. The reporting requirement also applies to officers and employees of local public pension plans, including volunteer firefighter relief associations and teachers' retirement fund associations governed by chapter 354A.

This Avoiding Pitfall is available on our website here:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090724.102>

If you are interested in signing up to receive an e-mail version of the E-Update regularly, send an e-mail with your contact information to signup@osa.state.mn.us.

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