



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

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

State Auditor Otto to Convene Council on Local Results and Innovation

Contact: Jim Levi, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, Jim.Levi@state.mn.us

ST. PAUL (7/1/2010) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto will convene the first meeting of the newly-formed Council on Local Results and Innovation this year. The eleven-member Council was created, with bipartisan support, during the 2010 legislative session. The Council will establish a standard set of performance measures for cities and a set for counties. The Council is also to serve as a statewide resource for the development, promotion, and implementation of local government performance measurement systems. "Lawmakers and the Governor, by passing this bill, recognized that it is essential, in these tough economic times, to continue to work toward more efficient, effective government," said Otto.

Statute requires the Council to develop by February 15, 2011, standard sets of approximately ten performance measures for counties and ten for cities aimed at measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of counties and cities in providing services. A county or city that participates in the program will report the results to its residents annually and will also file a report with the State Auditor by July 1.

Participation in the benchmark program will be voluntary for local governments. However, cities and counties that participate in the standard measures program will be eligible for local government aid reimbursements of up to \$25,000 and exemption from certain levy limits.

"Some communities have had the resources to get performance benchmarks into place, and are using them to monitor the effectiveness of services provided and respond accordingly. All local governments want to find ways to be more efficient. There are many communities that do not have staff or expertise to develop and implement performance measures. In these tight economic times, this Council will serve an important role," stated Otto.

The Council must solicit input from the public in developing the performance measurements. All meetings will be open to the public, and meeting notices will be posted on the homepage of the Office of the State Auditor website at www.auditor.state.mn.us.

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>.