



State Auditor  
Julie Blaha

# OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

## *E-Update*

April 10, 2020



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### 1. COVID-19 Update: Message from Auditor Blaha

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your continued patience as we work through the impacts of COVID-19 in Minnesota. We know that local governments are on the front lines in delivering public resources on a daily basis and we are grateful to you for your dedication to public service during this pandemic.

As a reminder: **Executive Order 20-22** gives the State Auditor the discretion to suspend, extend, or otherwise modify any state statutorily imposed deadline or reporting requirement pertaining to reports or other filings to the Office of the State Auditor (OSA). At this time, the OSA is automatically providing cash basis cities and townships with a 45-day reporting extension, from the original March 31, 2020 due date. The 2019 information is now due May 15, 2020. Cities and townships do not need to contact the Government Information Division (GID) to request this extension. If you have other questions regarding reporting, please refer to the frequently asked questions on our website at <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=faq>, send an email to [GID.OSA@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:GID.OSA@osa.state.mn.us), or call 651-297-3682.

On Wednesday, April 8, 2020 Governor Walz signed **Executive Order 20-33** which extends the Stay at Home Order through May 3, 2020 at 11:59pm. This is an extension of the original Stay at Home Order which went into effect on Friday, March 27 at 11:59pm and was scheduled to end today, April 10, 2020.

We at the OSA are committed to being here for you. While our office is empty, beyond essential staff, our entire team remains accessible from our homes. Please continue to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have:

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

Finally, your health and the health of your loved ones must remain at the top of your priority list. Please continue to refer to the Minnesota Department of Health website ([www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)) and the Governor's COVID-19 website

(<https://mn.gov/governor/covid-19>) to stay up to date on COVID-19 impacts in the state of Minnesota.

Please continue to stay safe, stay healthy, and stay home. By staying on track, we will get through this.

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## **2. Pension: Information on Municipal Contribution Requirements**

Two Statements of Position are provided on the Office of the State Auditor's website that explain when a municipality is required to pay a contribution to its affiliated volunteer fire relief association, and how the contribution amount is calculated.

Municipal contribution information for relief associations that pay a defined-benefit lump-sum service pension can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110527.009>.

Municipal contribution information for relief associations that pay or offer a defined-benefit monthly service pension can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110527.008>.

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## **3. Released: 2018 Minnesota County Finances Report**

Last week State Auditor Julie Blaha released the County Finances Report. The Report summarizes the current and long-term trends for county revenues, expenditures, and debt. The Report and its underlying data are available on the OSA website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20200331.000>

If you have questions, please send an email to [GID.OSA@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:GID.OSA@osa.state.mn.us) or call [651-297-2682](tel:651-297-2682).

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## **4. TIF: Certification of a TIF District**

After a TIF plan has been adopted, an authority must request certification by the county. The county auditor must certify the original net tax capacity within 30 days. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=CertTIFDist>

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## **5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Personal Portable Computing Devices**

Smart phones, tablets, personal digital assistants and other portable computing devices provide convenience and flexibility. When used to store or transmit government data, however, they also create data practice issues. These issues are increased when government data is stored on or transmitted to or from devices owned personally by public officials or employees.

This Avoiding Pitfall is available on our website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20121026.000>

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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](mailto:signup@osa.state.mn.us).

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