



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Message from Auditor Blaha

This week our democracy faced one of its greatest tests. While we need to condemn the mob that defiled our Capitol, and those who created the conditions that fomented insurrection, we can also take a moment to honor those who stayed at their post and protected our democratic processes.

When I saw the photo of quick-thinking Congressional aides who protected the electoral votes from an armed mob at their door, I thought of all of you. Though you rarely face conditions this dramatic, your work to keep the gears of local government turning in the face of chaos guard our republic. Whether the chaos you face is political division, pandemic, injustice, natural disaster, financial crisis, or other challenge, know that your day to day stewardship makes a difference. Just like those staffers grabbing the votes as they evacuated, your humble actions in the face of adversity are key to our country staying strong and united.



We will get through this together, and your work will be a big reason why.

2. TIF: TIF Districts Decertification Requirements

Many TIF districts reached their duration limit as of December 31, 2020, or may have been decertified in 2020 for other reasons. If you have such a district and haven't already done so, please complete the Confirmation of Decertified TIF District Form. This must be completed and submitted to the OSA within 90 days of the decertification. If you have any questions, please contact us at TIF@osa.state.mn.us.

To learn more, please visit:

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

Find the Confirmation of Decertified TIF District Form here:

https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/forms/tif/tifDecert_form.pdf

3. Available: 2021 City and County Summary Budget Form

The 2021 City and County Summary Budget Form is now available through SAFES (State Auditors Form Entry System) at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/SAFES/Default/Login>.

Minnesota law requires all Minnesota cities and counties to provide summary budget data to the Office of the State Auditor. Instructions for completing the form are available on our website at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/forms/gid/instructionsforsummarybudgetdataform.pdf>.

We are asking all cities and counties to complete and submit the Budget Form by January 19, 2021. The earlier due date allows more time for analysis in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your cooperation.

4. Released: CTAS 2021

The Small City and Town Accounting System update (CTAS 2021) was released this week and includes the 2021 Federal and State Tax Tables.

For existing CTAS users, CTAS 2021 can be downloaded, for no additional fee, from the State Auditors Form Entry System (SAFES) webpage at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/SAFES/Default/Login>

For local governments that are not currently using CTAS and would like to purchase CTAS 2021, please print and mail in the CTAS Order Form on the OSA website at:

https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/ctas/docs/CTAS_Order_Form.pdf

CTAS 2021 includes updates in the Accounting, Payroll, Indebtedness, Investment, Reports and Admin Modules. Please see the CTAS webpage for additional information:

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

5. Meeting: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group

The 2020-2021 Working Group will hold its last meeting on January 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Working Group will conduct a final review and approval of its legislative proposals.

For those who are interested in watching, the meeting will be live-streamed to the Office of the State Auditor (OSA)'s YouTube channel, at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckKaNgVJYulc26DQIA4wAIQ>

Meeting agendas and materials are available on the Working Group page of the OSA website at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=reliefworkinggroup>.

6. Avoiding Pitfalls: Local Government Compensation Limit

Minnesota law sets a compensation limit for local government employees. The limit is adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index.

This Avoiding Pitfall is available on our website here:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090724.008>

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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