



State Auditor
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OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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May 1, 2009

1. Released: Minnesota County Finances Report & City Summary Budget Report
2. New: Statement of Position on Fire Relief Association Funds
3. Pension Update: Training Thank-You
4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Written Contracts

1. Released: Minnesota County Finances Report & City Summary Budget Report

Minnesota County Finances Report

The Office of the State Auditor released the 2007 Minnesota County Finances Report, which summarizes the financial data of Minnesota counties for calendar year 2007. In addition, the report examines long-term trends that counties have experienced over the last 5 and 10 years. To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, graphs, and tables go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090427.000>.

City Summary Budget Report

The Office of the State Auditor released the 2009 Minnesota City Summary Budget Data Together with the 2008 Revised Summary Budget Data Report. To view the complete report, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090430.000>.

2. New: Statement of Position on Fire Relief Association Funds

The new Statement of Position, Fire Relief Association Funds: Special and General Funds, and Charitable Gambling Funds, identifies and explains differences between the funds, including differences in permissible expenditures and investments and in recordkeeping requirements. To view the complete statement, go to:

http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/Statements/FireReliefAssociationFunds_0905_statement.pdf.

3. Pension Update: Training Thank-You

The Office of the State Auditor would like to thank all of the relief association officers, trustees and consultants who attended one of our training sessions this spring. Our Pension staff had the chance to connect face-to-face with nearly 450 training participants.

We especially appreciate having had the opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns, and we encourage you to contact our office any time questions arise. If you have suggestions for future training sessions, please contact Rose Hennessy Allen at (651) 296-5985 or at Rose.Hennessy-Allen@state.mn.us.

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Written Contracts

We encourage public entities to have written contracts whenever practicable. Even when small dollar amounts are involved, written contracts help both sides understand their obligations under the contract. Written contracts can minimize later disputes over what was promised. In addition, the simple act of writing down the contract provisions can help clarify what is expected.

Your attorney should be able to assist you in drafting contracts. General guidance on contracts and sample contracts are available from the League of Minnesota Cities at <http://www.lmnc.org/>, and from the Minnesota Association of Townships at <http://www.mntownships.org/>.

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