

Office of City Auditor

Susan Cohen, City Auditor

Contact Information

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Department Description

The City Auditor is Seattle's independent internal auditor established by the City Charter. The City Auditor is appointed by the chair of the City Council's Finance Committee and confirmed by the full Council to a six-year term of office.

The Office of City Auditor helps the City achieve honest, efficient management and full accountability throughout City government. It serves the public interest by providing the Mayor, City Council, and City managers with accurate information, unbiased analysis, and objective recommendations on how best to use public resources in support of the well-being of Seattle's citizens.

The Office of City Auditor conducts financial audits, performance audits, management audits, and compliance audits of City programs, agencies, grantees, and contracts. Many of the Office's audits are performed in response to specific concerns or requests from the Mayor or City Councilmembers. If resources are available, the City Auditor will respond to specific requests from City department heads. The City Auditor will also independently initiate reviews to fulfill the Office's mission.

Through its work, the Office of City Auditor answers the following types of questions:

- Are City programs being carried out in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and is accurate data furnished to the Mayor and City Council on these programs?
- Do opportunities exist to eliminate inefficient use of public funds and potential waste?
- Are funds being spent legally, and is accounting for them accurate?
- Are programs achieving desired results?
- Are there better ways of achieving program objectives at lower costs?
- Are there ways to improve the quality of service without increasing costs?
- What emerging or key issues should the Mayor and City Council consider?

Policy and Program Changes

The 2003 Adopted and 2004 Endorsed Budget reduces the City Auditor budget for salaries and temporary employees. The City Auditor reorganizes the internal pay structure to include a new, lower-compensated classification title of Auditor to create more flexibility to allow for staff with a more diverse range of skills and experience.

City Council Budget Changes and Provisos

There are no Council changes or provisos.

City Auditor

Resources	Summit Code	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed
Office of City Auditor Budget Control Level					
Appropriation	VG000	1,076,247	1,162,634	1,062,000	1,088,000
Department Total		1,076,247	1,162,634	1,062,000	1,088,000
Department Full-time Equivalents Total*		12.00	11.00	11.00	11.00

**The department FTE total is provided for information only. All authorized positions are listed in Appendix A.*

Office of City Auditor

Purpose Statement

The mission and purpose of the Office of City Auditor is to provide unbiased analyses, accurate information, and objective recommendations to assist the City in using public resources equitably, efficiently, and effectively in the delivery of services to the citizens of Seattle.

Program Summary

The City Auditor reorganizes the pay structure to include a lower classification title with less compensation for staff with less experience. Savings are realized from the reclassification and reduced use of temporary employees.

Resources	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed
General Subfund	1,076,247	1,162,634	1,062,000	1,088,000
Total	1,076,247	1,162,634	1,062,000	1,088,000
Full-time Equivalents Total*	12.00	11.00	11.00	11.00

**The program FTE total is provided for information only. All authorized positions are listed in Appendix A.*