

Office of City Auditor

David G. Jones, City Auditor

Contact Information

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Department Description

The City Auditor is Seattle's independent auditor established by the City Charter. The City Auditor is appointed by a majority of the City Council to a four-year term of office.

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

The Office of City Auditor conducts audits of City programs, agencies, grantees, and contracts. Most of the Office's audits are performed in response to specific concerns or requests from City Councilmembers or the Mayor. If resources are available, the City Auditor responds to specific requests from City department directors. The City Auditor also independently initiates audits 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 City Council and Mayor on these programs?
- Do opportunities exist to eliminate inefficient use of public funds and waste?
- Are funds being spent legally and is accounting for them accurate?
- Are programs achieving desired results?
- Are there better ways to achieve program objectives at lower costs?
- Are there ways to improve the quality of service without increasing costs?
- What emerging or key issues should the City Council and Mayor consider?

Policy and Program Changes

In developing the 2011 Adopted Budget, the City of Seattle's General Fund was facing a \$67 million shortfall in 2011. The 2011 Adopted Budget includes reductions for all General Fund-dependent functions. As a result of the budget shortfall, the Department focused its reductions around administrative cuts.

The Office of the City Auditor will reduce its consulting/professional services budget to achieve budget savings. Additionally, the personnel services budget will be reduced creating sustainable salary savings.

City Council Provisos

There are no Council provisos.

City Auditor

	Summit	2009	2010	2011	2012
Appropriations	Code	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Office of City Auditor Budget Control Level	VG000	1,002,645	1,167,987	1,071,896	1,098,022
Department Total		1,002,645	1,167,987	1,071,896	1,098,022
Department Full-time Equivalents Total*		8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

** FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.*

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Resources	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
General Subfund	1,002,645	1,167,987	1,071,896	1,098,022
Department Total	1,002,645	1,167,987	1,071,896	1,098,022

Office of City Auditor Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The 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 delivering services to Seattle residents.

Summary

Reduce budget by \$60,000 for personnel services expenditures. This reduction is intended for 2011 and 2012 only.

Reduce budget by \$40,000 for consultant services expenditures.

The Mayor and the Council worked with the Coalition of City Labor Unions to identify mechanisms for reducing labor costs in the face of the City's strained financial situation. As a result of ratified agreements with represented employees and commensurate savings for non-represented positions in 'step-in-grade' classifications, this program will achieve \$14,000 in savings.

Increase budget by \$18,000 for departmental technical adjustments and citywide adjustments to labor and other operating costs due to inflation, health care, and similar changes, for a net decrease from the 2010 Adopted Budget to the 2011 Adopted Budget of approximately \$96,000

Expenditures/FTE	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2011 Adopted	2012 Endorsed
Office of City Auditor	1,002,645	1,167,987	1,071,896	1,098,022
Full-time Equivalents Total*	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

** FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.*