



State Auditor
Julie Blaha

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

March 20, 2020



Follow us on Twitter
[@MNStateAuditor](https://twitter.com/MNStateAuditor)

1. COVID-19 Update: Message from Auditor Blaha “We are here for you”
2. Deadline: Submit TIF Plans in SAFES
3. Released: Large Public Pension Plan Investment Report
4. Available: 2020 Supplemental Benefit Reimbursement Amounts
5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Holding Public Body Meetings During Times of Emergency

1. COVID-19 Update: Message from Auditor Blaha “We are here for you”

We are here for you! As we all face the challenges of keeping our communities healthy in the face of COVID-19, the OSA is working to support Minnesotans, particularly those of you connected to local government. Our office is still available because telework was already a common way for us to operate. We can still take your calls and provide support, while following Minnesota Department of Health guidance for safe workplaces. Our staff is teleworking whenever possible and ready to continue our service even if we need to close offices completely.

We understand that most of you reading this message (and that includes us) are still figuring out how to continue to do your work while keeping our community safe. Reach out to us when we can be of help. Let us know if deadlines are going to be a problem. Let us know if you need to change how we share information. Let us help you find the right resources if you don't know where to start.

My go-to resource right now is www.health.state.mn.us. The Minnesota Department of Health has the most up-to-date stats, great resources, and links to in person help. Bookmark that link right now!

I see evidence of the incredible dedication, creativity, and resilience of local government leaders and staff every day of this challenge. I know you will rise to the occasion, and in fact, are already doing so. We are proud to serve you, we are ready to help, and we are all in this together.

2. Deadline: Submit TIF Plans in SAFES

All TIF plans and modifications should be electronically submitted, along with the appropriate TIF Plan Collection Form, via in the State Auditor's Form Entry System (SAFES). Please do not mail copies of TIF plans. State law requires that all TIF plans be filed with the OSA **within 60 days** after the latest of: (1) the filing of the request for certification of the TIF district; (2) approval of the plan by the municipality; or (3) the adoption of the plan by the authority.

If you have any questions or need access to SAFES, please contact us at TIF@osa.state.mn.us.

3. Released: Large Public Pension Plan Investment Report

State Auditor Blaha released the Large Public Pension Plan Investment Report for the year ended December 31, 2018. The report contains rate of return, asset allocation, and benchmark comparison information for the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association, the St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association, and the State Board of Investment.

The complete report can be viewed on the OSA website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20200317.001>

4. Available: 2020 Supplemental Benefit Reimbursement Amounts

A listing of the 2020 supplemental benefit reimbursement amounts for volunteer fire relief associations, released by the Department of Revenue, is now available on our website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20200320.001>

5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Holding Public Body Meetings During Times of Emergency

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health recommendations for social distancing, questions have arisen around how local government public body meetings can be held safely and still be in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Minnesota Statutes, sections 13D.021 and 13D.04 answer most of these questions.

Section 13D.021 permits meetings by telephone or other electronic means in some emergency situations, including a health pandemic, if certain conditions are met. A short summary of the conditions may be found here:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20200320.000>

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.

The Office of the State Auditor is located at 525 Park Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55103. Phone: (651) 296-2551 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY) Fax: (651) 296-4755.

Web: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us>