

# TIF Division Newsletter



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## A Message From Our New State Auditor

I'm Julie Blaha, your new State Auditor, and I am excited to say hello to all the recipients of our monthly TIF newsletter. I am humbled that Minnesota has trusted me with this important job. We are here to provide public officials the data and analysis they need to do the public's business. I want all of you to know where you stand – as a partner with me and the entire State Auditor's office. Thank you for the important work that all of you do. Let's go!

## Annual TIF Legislative Report Released

The [2017 Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\) Legislative Report](#) has been released and is now available on the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) website.

The report summarizes information collected from the 2017 TIF Annual Reporting Forms and violations cited in reviews concluded in 2018.

Among the data highlights:

- In 2017, approximately \$203 million of tax increment revenue was generated statewide. Although most districts are located in Greater Minnesota, approximately \$171 million of tax increment, or 84 percent, was generated in the Metro Area.
- 2017 marks the first year in over a decade where the number of decertifications was less than the number of new district certifications.
- In 2017, redevelopment districts made up 47 percent of all TIF districts statewide, followed by housing districts at 31 percent, and economic development districts at 19 percent.

**TIF Videos**

TIF Videos are available on the State Auditor’s website

**Education Series**

[Introduction to TIF](#)

[The History of TIF and Why It Matters](#)

[TIF District Types](#)

[TIF Pooling](#)

[Excess Increments vs. Excess Taxes](#)

**Instruction Series**

[Completing the Pooled Debt Form](#)

[Completing the TIF Annual Reporting Form](#)

[Completing the TIF Plan Collection Form for New Districts](#)

[Completing the TIF Plan Collection Form for Modified Districts](#)

**Verify SAFES Contact Information Each Year**

All SAFES users need to verify their contact information at their first login each year. Users will not be able to proceed in SAFES until the contact information is verified.

You can verify your information on the “Contacts” screen, the first screen you see after you log in. Once you’ve reviewed and (if necessary) updated your contact information, click the “Verify” button located on the bottom right.

If you have trouble accessing SAFES, please contact our office at either [TIF@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:TIF@osa.state.mn.us) or [safes@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:safes@osa.state.mn.us).

**Authorization for Consultants to Access SAFES**

All consultants and non-authority employees who need to access SAFES must annually file an authorization form with the OSA. The [authorization form for 2019](#) is available and can be submitted by e-mail, fax, or US mail. Please note that this form is not required for employees of authorities.

Authorization for employees of authorities does not expire. If an employee of an authority does not have current access to SAFES and needs it, please contact our office.

**Updated Statements of Position**

As of December 31, 2018, all TIF Statements of Position (SOPs) have been updated and are [available on the OSA website](#).

**TIF Division Staff**

If you have questions, please contact us:

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