



State Auditor
Julie Blaha

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

March 13, 2020



Follow us on Twitter
@MNStateAuditor

1. Statement: Auditor Blaha Response to OSA Operations with COVID-19
2. Deadline: County TIF Information Forms due March 31st
3. Released: 2018 Minnesota City Finances Report
4. Released: Pension Legislative Update
5. Revised: Relief Association Sample Bylaw Guides
6. Revised: Pension Statements of Position
7. Avoiding Pitfalls: Contract Quotations

1. Statement: Auditor Blaha Response to COVID-19

State Auditor Julie Blaha has suspended statewide travel plans, speaking engagements with large groups, and her office's public meetings until further notice. The Auditor and OSA staff will continue to monitor and adjust plans as the situation progresses.

OSA is implementing community mitigation strategies in response to COVID-19, but please do not hesitate to contact OSA via phone or email. Our staff will be available remotely to support those we serve. We are also connecting with our partners in local government to ensure we are able to integrate with their specific COVID-19 response plans.

The full release may be found here:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=covid19>

2. Deadline: County TIF Information Forms due March 31st

The County TIF Information Form is due from counties by March 31, 2019. The form captures information for 2019 regarding a county's TIF administrative activities, distributions of tax increment, and transfers of the TIF enforcement deduction. The information assists the Office of the State Auditor in its oversight of TIF authorities.

The form can be found at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/safes/>

3. Released: 2018 Minnesota City Finances Report

This week State Auditor Julie Blaha released the City Finances Report. The Report summarizes the current and long-term trends for city revenues, expenditures, and debt. The Report and its underlying data are available on the OSA website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20200310.000>

If you have questions, please send an email to GID.OSA@osa.state.mn.us or call 651-297-2682.

4. Released: Pension Legislative Update

The 2019 Legislative Update for volunteer fire relief associations has been released. The Update provides detailed information about law changes that affect volunteer fire relief associations, including new authority to provide fully-vested service pensions to firefighters with at least ten years of active service. Some changes may require a relief association to amend its bylaws. The Update can be found at:

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

5. Revised: Relief Association Sample Bylaw Guides

The Office of the State Auditor's Sample Bylaw Guides for volunteer fire relief associations have been revised to incorporate the 2019 legislative changes and are now available. The revised Guides are provided in both MS Word and Adobe PDF versions, and can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20120208.000>

6. Revised: Pension Statements of Position

The Office of the State Auditor's Statements of Position that pertain to volunteer fire relief associations have been reviewed and updated. The Statements of Position are an educational resource for relief association trustees. The Statements of Position can be found under the "Pensions" heading at:

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

7. Avoiding Pitfalls: Contract Quotations

Minnesota's Uniform Municipal Contracting Law uses dollar-amount thresholds to determine whether local government contracts may be entered into on the basis of competitive bids, quotations, or purchase or sale in the open market. Contracts estimated to exceed \$175,000 must generally be made using sealed bids, solicited by public notice. In general, contracts with estimated values of \$175,000 or less can be made based on quotations. Contracts estimated not to exceed \$25,000 may be made on either quotations or in the open market.

To learn more about this issue, please visit:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090724.018>

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>