



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases 2010 Town Finances Report

Contact: Jim Levi, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, Jim.Levi@state.mn.us

ST. PAUL (11/16/2011) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Minnesota Town Finances Report, a comprehensive report on revenues, expenditures and debt. The report analyzes town financial operations for the calendar year ended December 31, 2010.

In 2010, there were 1,785 towns in Minnesota, compared to 854 cities and 87 counties. Population estimates from the State Demographer for 2010 show that 925,784 individuals reside in Minnesota's towns, representing 17.5 percent of the state's population. Town populations range from 10,949 in the Town of White Bear (Ramsey County) to 5 in the Town of Hangaard (Clearwater County). Fifty-two percent of towns have a population of 300 or less.

Highlights from the report include:

Current and Long-Term Trends

- In 2010, Minnesota towns reported total revenues of \$261.2 million. This amount represents a 0.8 percent decrease from the total revenues reported in 2009.
- Minnesota towns reported total expenditures of \$265.0 million in 2010. This amount represents an increase of 2.1 percent over the amount reported in 2009.
- Towns had debt service expenditures of \$15.0 million in 2010. This amount represents a 3.4 percent increase in debt service expenditures from 2009 to 2010.
- Since 2001, the share of total revenues derived from taxes has increased from 50.6 percent in 2001 to 72.8 percent in 2010. In contrast, the share of total revenues derived from intergovernmental sources has decreased from 35.1 percent in 2001 to 17.0 percent in 2010.
- In constant dollars, town total revenues decreased 7.7 percent between 2001 and 2010.
- In constant dollars, town total expenditures decreased 5.0 percent between 2001 and 2010.

-- more --

For the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, graphs and tables, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20111115.004>.

-- 30 --

The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.