



**Office of the Washington State Auditor**

**Pat McCarthy**

# **Accountability Audit Report**

## **City of Selah**

**For the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017**

**Published February 7, 2019**

**Report No. 1023227**





## Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy

February 7, 2019

Mayor and City Council  
City of Selah  
Selah, Washington

### Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for City operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our independent audit report on the City's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy".

Pat McCarthy  
State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

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## AUDIT RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In most of the areas we examined, City operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over safeguarding of public resources.

As referenced above, we noted certain matters that we communicated to City management and Mayor and City Council in a letter dated January 31, 2019, related to cost allocation. We appreciate the City's commitment to resolving those matters.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the City of Selah from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the City's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Utility billing and cash receipting
- Payroll, including overtime
- Procurement for public works, purchases, and engineering
- Overhead cost allocation
- General disbursements, including credit cards
- Safeguarding police department assets and evidence room
- Selected IT security policies, procedures, practices, and controls protecting financial systems, IT systems, and data

## RELATED REPORTS

### Financial

Our opinion on the City's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the City's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

The City of Selah serves 7,290 citizens in Yakima County. It is a noncharter code city administered by a mayor-council form of government. The citizens elect seven Council Members and a Mayor.

The City operates on an annual budget of \$13 million. The City's 50 full-time employees provide services including water, sewer, police, Municipal Court, fire, emergency medical, street maintenance and improvement, parks and recreation and general administration.

### Contact information related to this report

Address:	City of Selah 115 W. Naches Selah, WA 98942
Contact:	Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer
Telephone:	(509) 698 7334
Website:	<a href="http://www.ci.selah.wa.us">www.ci.selah.wa.us</a>

*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Selah at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

### Contact information for the State Auditor's Office

<b>Public Records requests</b>	<a href="mailto:PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov">PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov</a>
<b>Main telephone</b>	(360) 902-0370
<b>Toll-free Citizen Hotline</b>	(866) 902-3900
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sao.wa.gov">www.sao.wa.gov</a>