

Questions for State Auditors Nominees

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Auditors of Public Accounts ([CGS § 2-89](#))

- Two auditors head the office, which employs more than 100 people.
- The auditors audit the books and accounts of each state office, department, commission, board, and court; all state-supported institutions; and each quasi-public agency.
- They must report any unauthorized, illegal, irregular, or unsafe handling or expenditure of state funds or any breakdown in the safekeeping of any state resources to the governor, state comptroller, General Assembly, and the attorney general.
- The auditors investigate whistleblower complaints.
- They may contract as necessary to carry out their duties.

Questions

1. How has your background and experience prepared you for this position?
2. If confirmed, what will be your top priorities for the office?
3. Do you have any recommendations for legislation concerning the audit process or the auditors' powers and duties? If so, what are they?
4. By law, the office is led by two auditors who cannot be from the same political party. What challenges or opportunities does this present with respect to the office's ability to fulfill its statutory mission?

5. In 2016, five staff members transferred from the Legislative Program Review and Investigations (PRI) Committee to the Auditors of Public Accounts to establish a performance audit unit. How has their program evaluation work changed, if at all, from their work for PRI? Is this unit currently a good fit within APA's organization and typical financial auditing duties, or are changes needed to promote cohesion?
6. Your office just completed a performance audit of the state's contractor responsible for providing non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to Medicaid patients. Can you briefly summarize the main findings?
7. The state's 17 quasi-public agencies were generally created to operate with more autonomy than public agencies. Following your recent audit of the Connecticut Port Authority's spending practices and operations, do you think that the legislature should expand upon the controls that the state has over quasi-public agencies? If so, what changes do you recommend?
8. Last session, [sSB 1041](#) passed on the Senate's consent calendar but was tabled in the House. The bill sought to limit the conditions under which state agencies could apply for waivers from competitive solicitation requirements for certain contracts, by eliminating the OPM Secretary's discretionary authority to grant waivers under conditions that are not specifically prescribed in statute. It also would require state contractors possessing or controlling any relevant information concerning a department, commission, board, or court being audited to provide information upon demand to APA in a format you prescribe, at no additional cost to the state. Is such legislation still necessary? Why or why not?
9. [PA 19-117](#), §§ 212-227 established the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority (MRDA) as a quasi-public agency to stimulate economic and transit-oriented development. It requires the MRDA board to annually contract with a certified public accounting firm to undertake a financial audit and a person or firm for a compliance audit. Do you believe that quasi-public agencies should have the option to contract with a third party, or should they only be audited by the state auditors? Please explain your answer.
10. [PA 19-10](#) established a revamped reward program for state employees who make a suggestion that (1) concerns an alleged gross waste of funds in their employing state agency, (2) is subsequently implemented by the agency, and (3) results in agency cost savings exceeding \$10,000. Have any agencies submitted cost savings calculations to APA for verification yet, and if so, how much have the savings been?
11. By law, the auditors are responsible for receiving whistleblower complaints concerning state agencies and certain state contractors and reporting any findings or recommendations to the attorney general. How well do you believe the whistleblower review process works?

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