



**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

November 2, 2017

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information of the State of Washington, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the State's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Department of Retirement Systems, Local Government Investment Pool, University of Washington, and the funds managed by the State Investment Board. Those financial statements represent part or all of the total assets, net position, and revenues or additions of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information as follows:

Opinion Unit	Percent of Total Assets	Percent of Net Position	Percent of Total Revenues/ Additions
Governmental Activities	13.6%	25.4%	8.3%
Business-Type Activities	76.1%	100.0%	38.2%
Higher Education Special Revenue Fund	57.1%	56.6%	54.2%
Higher Education Endowment Fund	96.7%	96.6%	93.9%
Higher Education Student Services Fund	72.0%	100.0%	69.2%
Workers' Compensation Fund	92.7%	100.0%	16.5%
Guaranteed Education Tuition Program Fund	94.1%	100.0%	88.3%
Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units and Remaining Fund Information	93.5%	94.8%	73.4%

Those statements were audited by other auditors, whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the above mentioned entities and funds, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The financial statements of the Department of Retirement Systems, Local Government Investment Pool, University of Washington, and the funds managed by the State Investment Board were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the State's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information of the State of Washington, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Matters of Emphasis

As explained in Note 1.D.1, the financial statements include pension trust fund investments valued at \$39.3 billion, which comprise 30.5 percent of total assets and 32.7 percent of net position of the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information. The fair values of these investments have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable fair values. Management's estimates are based on information provided by the fund managers or, in the case of investments in partnerships, the general partners. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary and Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the State's basic financial statements. The combining financial statements and individual fund schedules are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. This information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America by us and the other auditors. In our opinion, based on our audit, the procedures performed as described above, and the reports of the other auditors, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The Introductory and Statistical Sections are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the State. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue our report dated November 2, 2017, on our consideration of the State's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report will be issued under separate cover in the State's Single Audit Report. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the State's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Pat McCarthy

State Auditor

Olympia, WA