



Office of the State Comptroller

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey State Comptroller's Office Releases Annual Oversight and Outreach Plan for Making New Jersey Government More Efficient, Effective and Transparent

TRENTON – The New Jersey State Comptroller's Office released its [2020-2021 Oversight and Outreach Plan](#), which will guide the office's work in pursuing accountability and transparency at every level of government and in engaging the public in eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.

“The State Comptroller's Oversight and Outreach Plan communicates to New Jersey residents the specific ways we are looking out for their tax dollars and working to make government run more efficiently and effectively,” said **Acting State Comptroller Kevin D. Walsh**. “We know from experience that New Jerseyans want to be involved in improving government. This is our invitation to residents, public employees, motorists, police officers, council members, mayors, county commissioners, advocates, parents, teachers, civil rights leaders, and everyone else to do the important work of holding government accountable by letting us know where government and government contractors are falling short. In our plan, we identify areas where we most need and welcome help from residents in identifying waste, fraud, and abuse – but we welcome tips of any kind.”

The Oversight and Outreach Plan focuses on five areas:

- 1. Oversight of federal COVID-19 recovery funds.** The State Comptroller's Office has been charged with monitoring billions of dollars in federal funds provided to New Jersey to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through contract reviews, audits and investigations of public entities, the State Comptroller will identify waste, fraud and abuse in New Jersey's recovery from the public health and economic crisis.
- 2. Municipal oversight.** The State Comptroller's Office will evaluate whether New Jersey's municipalities are following public bidding laws when spending taxpayer dollars; complying with laws

prohibiting payments for unused sick leave and prohibiting the accrual of vacation leave; adhering to applicable transparency requirements involving the procurement of insurance; procuring audit firms through competitive processes and rotating audit firms on a regular basis; and addressing recurring issues in audits. The State Comptroller will evaluate municipalities on these issues using surveys, audits, and investigations.

3. Racial profiling oversight. The State Comptroller's Office will continue its statutorily required review of the New Jersey State Police's (NJSP) internal affairs and disciplinary processes as part of the reforms adopted to prevent racial profiling and other discriminatory conduct by State Troopers. We will also examine how and whether local police departments effectively prevent racial profiling because we recognize that racial profiling may also occur in municipal police departments that do not track and analyze motor vehicle stops.

4. Medicaid oversight. Medicaid represents the largest share of combined state and federal spending in New Jersey's state budget, making transparency and accountability of the program particularly important. The State Comptroller's Office will work to detect Medicaid fraud and return misused funds to taxpayers. We will continue our work recovering tens of millions of dollars of misspent Medicaid funds each year by detecting fraud, reaching settlements with providers, referring providers for criminal investigation, and, when necessary, terminating providers from participating in New Jersey's Medicaid program.

5. Following up on past audits. The State Comptroller's Office is required to monitor the implementation of our recommendations after an audit is performed. During the next year, we will be conducting follow-up reviews involving the Economic Development Authority's various tax incentive programs; the Jersey City Municipal Authority's practices involving water and sewer user rates, monitoring of water consumption and billing, procurements, and employee salary increases and other benefits; the North Bergen School District's compliance with the Public School Contracts Law; and the Department of Environmental Protection's administration of lease and concession agreements.

The full text of the plan can be found [on the State Comptroller's website](#).

Given that much of the work the State Comptroller's Office performs is confidential and not discussed until a public report is released, the plan released today is not meant to encompass the entirety of the Office's efforts to make government more efficient and accountable.

Many of the State Comptroller's investigations have originated from tips received from concerned residents who have information about government mismanagement. Members of the public or press who have information regarding any of the priorities outlined above – or suspect any sort of government waste, fraud or abuse – are encouraged to share their tips at 1-855-OSC-TIPS (672-8477) or by email at comptrollertips@osc.nj.gov. Suspected government mismanagement or fraud can be reported to the OSC anonymously.

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The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) is an independent state agency that works to advance transparency and integrity throughout New Jersey government and to ensure taxpayer funds are spent efficiently and effectively. The OSC conducts audits and investigations of government agencies throughout New Jersey, reviews certain government contracts, and works to detect and prevent Medicaid fraud.

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