

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

State of Washington July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

The Honorable Jay Inslee
State of Washington
Olympia, Washington

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinions

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, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the State's basic financial statements as listed in the financial section of our report.

In our opinion, the accompanying 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, 2023, 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.

We did not audit the financial statements of the Department of Retirement Systems, Local Government Investment Pool, University of Washington, or the fund managed by the State Investment Board. Those financial statements represent part or all 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	12.6%	19.4%	6.9%
Business-Type Activities	73.0%	100.0%	27.6%
Higher Education Special Revenue Fund	49.7%	46.8%	47.7%
Higher Education Endowment Fund	97.2%	96.9%	82.9%
Higher Education Student Services Fund	68.7%	100.0%	90.4%
Workers' Compensation Fund	96.0%	97.0%	16.3%
Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units and Remaining Fund Information	97.0%	93.0%	62.2%

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

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the State and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Matters of Emphasis

As explained in Note 1.D.1, the financial statements include pension trust investments valued at \$90.7 billion, which comprise 38.0 percent of the total assets and 43.9 percent of the net position of the aggregate discretely component units and remaining fund information. The fair values of those investments have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable fair

values. Management's estimates are based upon information provided by the fund managers or, in the case of investments in partnerships, the general partners. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, in 2023, the State adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, No. 96 *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, and No. 99 *Omnibus 2022*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As discussed in Note 20.C to the financial statement, in October 2023, the State submitted requests to the United States Department of Labor to issue blanket authority to waive \$473.3 million of overpayments for CARES Act unemployment compensation programs. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management 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, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the State's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements;
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the State's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time; and
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

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 financial section of our report be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 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.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 7, 2023 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. 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 the effectiveness of the State's 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.

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

December 7, 2023