



# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec. 12, 2019

For more information, please contact:  
Susan Saylor | Communications Director  
[ssaylor@washingtoncountyttn.org](mailto:ssaylor@washingtoncountyttn.org)  
(423) 753-1620

## State Auditor Releases Clean Opinion on the County's Financials

JONESBOROUGH -- The State of Tennessee's Division of Local Government Audit issued a clean opinion on Washington County's 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report today.

"The auditor issued an unqualified opinion stating the financial statements fairly present the financial position and related changes, cash flows and budgetary comparisons of Washington County as of June 30, 2019, and for the year then ended," said Mitch Meredith, Director of Accounts and Budgets for the County.

The Comptroller also issued reports on Internal Control and Compliance with Federal programs. The report on internal controls identified no deficiencies that the Comptroller considered to be a material weakness.

"That's good news for the county, meaning county government as a whole is a good steward of taxpayer funds," said County Mayor Joe Grandy. "No significant findings in the audit is an excellent testament to the County's ability to manage our finances."

The Comptroller identified six areas that required some process modifications. Three findings in the Director of Schools office, two in the Office of the Mayor and one in the office of the County Clerk. All findings were procedural and corrective action plans are now in place.

Two issues with the Director of Schools office involved proper tracking of accounts, and were corrected via internal procedural issues. The third involved unclaimed funds not being reported and paid to the state. The Director of Finance for the school system has implemented procedures to make sure those unclaimed funds are properly processed.

In the Office of the Mayor, payroll processing and timely deposit of funds for the Solid Waste Department were cited as areas of concern. New procedures are in place to remedy both instances cited.

The finding in the County Clerk's office centered on reviewing software logs, and a procedure is now in place to have the Clerk or Deputy Clerk review the logs each month.

Additionally, all findings from the previous year were corrected prior to this year's audit.

Operationally, the county's general fund performed significantly better than budgeted. The commission budgeted the use \$2,075,944 of fund balance for county operations in 2019, but through the efforts of the various officials and department heads the county's use of general fund balance totaled only \$652,952.

During the year ended June 30, 2019, the county retired \$6,755,000 of long-term bonds and notes and issued no new debt. The county's outstanding long-term bonds and notes as of June 30, 2019, totaled \$158,310,000

The General Purpose School fund budgeted a \$1,410,000 use of its fund balance for 2019. Actual results were a surplus of \$1,950,562.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2019, is available for review on the state comptroller's web site (<https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/la.html>).