

Arkansas

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LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING, COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS,
AND OTHER ISSUES BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Cross County, Arkansas Officials and Quorum Court Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

We have audited in accordance with the 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, the accompanying regulatory basis financial statements of the general fund, road fund, and other funds in the aggregate of Cross County, Arkansas, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 12, 2016. We issued an adverse opinion because the financial statements are prepared by the County on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-412, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effect on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material. However, with respect to the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1, our opinions on the general fund, road fund, and other funds in the aggregate were qualified because required disclosures were not made concerning deposit risks.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiency to be a material weakness:

2015-1 To ensure the proper safeguarding of assets, financial accounting duties relating to initiating, receipting, depositing, disbursing, and recording transactions should be distributed among appropriate employees. The County officials, as specified in the Other Issues section of this report, again did not segregate these duties to sufficiently reduce the risks of fraud or error and properly safeguard the County's assets, because of limited financial resources. We recommend that the financial accounting duties in each office be segregated among employees to the extent possible.

The County officials, as specified in the Other Issues section of this report, responded and indicated that their offices will segregate the duties relating to initiating, receipting, depositing, disbursing, and recording transactions to the extent possible with the current staffing levels.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of the state constitution, laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Entity's Response to Finding

The County's response to the finding identified in our audit is described above. The County's response auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion

Other Issues

The commentary contained in this section relates to the following officials that held office during 2015:

County Judge: Donnie Sanders
Treasurer: Karen McCorkel
Sheriff: J. R. Smith
Tax Collector: Debbie Davis
County Clerk: Melanie Winkler
Circuit Clerk: Rhonda Sullivan
Assessor: Sherri Williams
County Librarian: John Myrick

Our audit procedures indicated that the above offices were in substantial compliance with Arkansas fiscal and

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report was prepared in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 21-9-101, matters presented to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee are matters of public record and distribution is not limited.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



Marti Steel, CPA
Deputy Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
August 12, 2016