

Agency Snapshot: Office of the Florida Auditor General

by Paula Savchenko

Background

The Office of the Auditor General (“Office”) was established in 1969, and has served as the State of Florida’s independent auditor ever since. Before the Office came into existence, the Florida Legislature provided for an audit function starting in 1845, from the time Florida became a state. The Florida Legislature has modified the Office’s authority, duties, and responsibilities several times since it came into existence. However, the core purpose of serving as the independent auditor for the State of Florida has remained unchanged. The Auditor General is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Legislature.

As a result, the Auditor General is considered a legislative position. However, the Auditor General has no input in the lawmaking process. The Office’s duties include conducting financial audits of state agencies, universities, school boards, and local governments. Typically, the Office is instructed on where to best allocate its time and resources by the Legislature. The purpose of the audits are to evaluate agencies’ financial resources and internal controls, and determine whether assets are properly safeguarded. Further, the Office may perform technology audits of state IT systems and data centers.

Auditor General

Article III, section 2, of the Florida Constitution requires the Legislature to appoint an Auditor General to serve at the pleasure of the Legislature. The Auditor General is appointed by a majority vote of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, a joint body comprised of five representatives and four senators. The Auditor General must then be confirmed by both chambers of the Legislature. Further, the Auditor General may be terminated at any

time by a majority vote of both Legislative chambers.

The current Auditor General is Sherrill F. Norman. Ms. Norman was sworn in on July 2, 2015, and she is the first female Auditor General in Florida’s history. State law requires that the Auditor General have at least 10 years of experience in accounting or auditing and have been a certified public accountant in Florida for the same amount of time. The laws governing the Auditor General’s duties and powers are outlined in section 11.42, Florida Statutes.

General Counsel

Bruce Jeroslow

Audit Manager

Jennifer Blanca, Quality Control and Professional Practice

Deputy Auditor Generals

Marilyn Tenewitz, Information Technology Audits

Greg Centers, Educational Entities and Local Government Audits

Matthew Tracy, State Government Audits

Hours of Operation

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Headquarters Address and

Contact Information

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