

Office of the City Auditor

Frequently Asked Questions

The Austin City Charter created the Office of the City Auditor to assist the Austin City Council, the public, and City management in establishing accountability, transparency and a culture of continuous improvement in City operations and service delivery. To achieve this mission, it conducts performance audits, completes special projects, and investigates reports of fraud, waste or abuse.

To whom does the City Auditor report?

The City Auditor is appointed by the City Council and reports to it. The Auditor serves a five-year term that can be renewed by vote of the Council after each term expires. Before a term is complete, the Auditor can only be removed by a super-majority of the Council (three-fourths of the Council that are eligible to vote, e.g. not recused or abstaining).

What kinds of audits does the City Auditor's Office conduct?

The Office conducts performance audits not financial audits. Performance audits provide information on whether programs are achieving their outcomes; services are provided effectively, efficiently and equitably; and to ensure legal requirements are met.

Where do audit topics originate?

The Office identifies and prioritizes potential audit projects based on public input or City Council/ City staff input.

How are audits conducted?

The Office conducts a risk-based process to determine the focus and then researches a topic. The Auditor's Office identifies risk areas; develops findings and then makes recommendations.

Are audits made public?

Most audit and investigative reports are public. However, working papers are covered by an exception in the Texas Public Information Act. Audits are presented to the Council Audit and Finance Committee.

What are other responsibilities of the City Auditor's Office?

The Office also conducts special projects by request of the City Council to assist it in decision-making. These projects are generally designed to quickly answer specific questions.

How do I contact the City Auditor's Office?

The Auditor's Office, 200 W. Cesar Chavez St., is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. You can also call 512-974-2805 or email oca_auditor@austintexas.gov. The Office of the City Auditor's website is www.austintexas.gov/auditor.

