

Jeff Wiita, CPA for State Auditor

Principles that Count

Press Release: September 23, 2009

My name is Jeff Wiita. I have worked for the State Auditor's Office for 26 years, and I am a CPA seeking the Republican endorsement for State Auditor. There has never been a Minnesota State Auditor who has met the professional qualifications to call them a Certified Public Accountant.

Shortly after Rebecca Otto took office, she traveled to each out-state office location. At that time, I was working on the Mankato Crew. Each individual had the opportunity to meet with her privately. During my meeting with her, I told her that the Office had two main problems that had to be addressed. They were timeliness of the audit reports and escalating audit costs. At that time, I shared with her my Plan to create a program that ensures timely governmental audits at the lowest price by empowering CPA firms in the auditing of First Class Cities and Counties through a well-regulated peer review process administered by the State Auditor's Office.

Today is September 23. In 7 days, we will be crossing the federal Single Audit deadline. Many of the audits we issue after September 30 will be in violation of the federal Single Audit deadline. The federal government is considering moving the Single Audit deadline from September 30 to June 30. Audits issued after June 30 rapidly become useless to the users, and the federal government realizes this.

During the current audit cycle, the audit reports and management letters for the City of St. Paul and the City of Minneapolis were issued on July 23 and July 28, respectively. Both audits would not meet the future Single Audit deadline of June 30.

Minnesota statute requires that all cities report to the State Auditor's Office by June 30. The State Auditor's Office cannot meet its own statutory requirement. This form of nonfeasance will not be acceptable in my administration.

State Auditor Otto has not addressed the problem of timeliness. In fact, it appears that she is running from the problem. As a member of the Executive Branch of government, she must put forward her plan to address timeliness. If she cannot address timeliness, she is certainly not going to be able to address the escalating audit costs of the unfunded mandate.

For more details on my Plan, go to <http://www.JeffForStateAuditor.com/>

Prepared and paid for by Jeff Wiita, CPA for State Auditor