

Pam Myhra for MN State Auditor

[pam@pamforauditor.com](mailto:pam@pamforauditor.com)

**1). Does the auditor provide sufficient oversight of local governments?** In my opinion, it does not provide sufficient and appropriate oversight. As a Certified Public Accountant with an active license and a former Audit Manager at KPMG, an international public accounting firm, I will make it my top priority to update the Office of State Auditor and related MN Statute to conform with current Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and thereby give Minnesotans the accountability and transparency they both need and deserve.

As one example, recently, it was reported that at least a quarter of a million dollars is missing from Dakota County's low-income housing program of federal grant money. This situation highlights the importance of the State Auditor's responsibilities of financial oversight of government resources. Under my leadership the Office of State Auditor will perform single audits of federal grant money as it is empowered to do so under MN Statute or will perform quality assurance reviews of those conducting the single audits. The current State Auditor's February 15, 2018 report on single audits of federal grant money sites a Memorandum of Understanding dating back to 1983. Under my leadership, all memorandum of understanding will be updated annually as required.

**2). What additional measures, if any, do you recommend?**

I believe a complete review of the Office of State Auditor and related MN Statute needs to be performed to bring them into conformity with current Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. This update will improve the effectiveness of financial audits and performance reviews.

As a MN State Representative from 2011 - 2014, I chief-authored two government transparency bills, unanimously passed in the MN House of Representatives and signed into law. That accomplishment demonstrates my ability, background, and experience to bring people together for the good of Minnesotans. I will continue to build on my proven record by working with the Legislature and Governor to update MN Statute governing the office.

**3). Should counties be allowed to hire private firms?**

Yes. The 2015 State Finance Omnibus Bill, Senate File 888, passed by the Democrat-controlled Senate, the Republican-controlled House and signed into law by the Democrat Governor, was affirmed as constitutional April 18, 2018 by the MN Supreme Court. The bill allows counties the same choice cities have had for many years – to engage a private accounting firm to do their financial audit. This choice allows for greater local control to better serve the public interest.

Additionally, the MN Supreme Court's April 18, 2018 decision affirmed "the Minnesota State Auditor retains significant duties and responsibilities in connection with audits of Minnesota counties". Under my leadership, the Office of State Auditor will conduct quality assurance reviews of private accounting firms conducting county financial audits, as it is empowered to do under MN statute.

**4). Why are you running for office?**

I am seeking the position of State Auditor to use my unique skills, background, and experience as a Certified Public Accountant with an active license, former Audit Manager, and former two-term MN State Representative, to improve accountability and transparency in the use of government resources for the public. This will be accomplished through updating the Office of State Auditor and related MN Statute to comply with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.

**5). What are your personal priorities?**

My main priority will be to work with the Legislature and Governor to update MN Statute governing the Office of State Auditor to bring it in conformity with current Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards to better serve the public. With my unique set of qualifications, I will work tirelessly to provide the accountability and transparency in the use of government resources Minnesotans need and deserve.

**6). Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.**

I am a Certified Public Accountant with an active license and former Audit Manager at KPMG, an international public accounting firm. I home-educated my three children from pre-school to their high school graduation. I served two-terms as a MN State Representative from 2011 - 2014, serving the people of Burnsville and Savage. While in the Legislature, I chief-authored two government transparency bills, both unanimously passed in the House and signed into law by the Governor. In 2013, I received the "Elected Women of Excellence" award from the non-partisan National Foundation of Women Legislators. I have the endorsement of the Republican Party of MN, the MN Freedom Club, and U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz and am supported by the MN Society of CPAs. My husband, Chuck, of 37-years and I, are long-time residents of Burnsville, MN.