



Dianna Luce
District Attorney
Fifth Judicial District
Lea, Eddy & Chaves Counties

March 5, 2024

Joseph M. Maestas, P.E., State Auditor
State of New Mexico, Office of the State Auditor
2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A,
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

Re: Request for Public Comment on 2024's Notice of Changes to the State Audit Rule

During our review of the Notice of Changes to the State Audit Rule, we noted that the State Auditor's Office is proposing the following amendment; "amend and shortens the auditor rotation rule from eight (8) to six (6) years". We would like to provide our viewpoint and comment on this proposed change.

Changing the Rotation Rule from an 8-year Interval to a 6-year Interval will Contribute to the Following Adverse Issues

Our agency had a turnover in our CFO position 5 years ago and we believe the established working relationship that was in place with our auditor lowered the risk associated with first year audits. Having the same auditor for several years has streamlined the process to complete the audit in a timely manor because they are familiar with our agencies practices and the working relationship to complete our audit has enabled our agency to have our audit submitted on or before the deadline.

We are concerned that if this rule were to change it would cause the yearly cost of our audit's to go up because of the increased work it would take to review and audit our agency by being a first time auditor for our agency. This is not a cost effective rule change for our State because it would be Statewide and therefore be more costly for the citizens to bear. We need to be fiscally responsible to our constituents and keep the costs level and not increased.

We feel the 8-year Rotation Rule has many advantages both for private auditing firms and State Agencies that need to be reviewed before a decision is made to change to the 6 year audit rule.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianna Luce
Fifth Judicial District Attorney

Diana Switzer
CFO/Financial Manager

LEA COUNTY
313 E. Central Ave, Suite 203
Lovington, NM 88260
Phone: 575-397-2471
Fax: 575-397-6484

EDDY COUNTY
102 N. Canal Street, Suite 200
Carlsbad, NM 88220-5750
Phone: 575-885-8822
Fax: 575-887-3516

CHAVES COUNTY
400 N. Virginia Avenue, Suite G-2
Roswell, NM 88201-6222
Phone: 575-622-4121
Fax: 575-622-4126