



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

January 2, 2024

State Auditor John Dougall Announces that He Will Not Seek Re-election

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

State Auditor John “Frugal” Dougall today announces that he will not seek re-election. Auditor Dougall has led the Office of the State Auditor (Office) since January 2013. He will complete his third term on January 5, 2025.

Auditor Dougall shared:

I am humbled by the trust Utah voters have placed in me to serve as their constitutional watchdog, helping them hold their government accountable. During my tenure, we improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office’s oversight role. We aggressively identified waste, fraud, and abuse in government and increased government compliance with statutory obligations.

I strongly believe that transparency in government operations and spending improves public understanding and oversight. With this emphasis, the Office assumed responsibility for, upgraded, and re-launched Transparent Utah, an integrated website providing taxpayers with in-depth financial information for essentially every state and local governmental entity in Utah. The Office further expanded transparency with innovative tools like Project KIDS, which allows taxpayers and administrators to see where money goes within Utah’s system of public education, allowing stakeholders to better determine how well that money was spent. The Office has also shown how data analysis and visualization can bring greater transparency to disparate issues like the cost of health care and the property valuation process.

Finally, we championed strengthening privacy protections for Utahns years before other policymakers recognized this critical emerging need. While government needs to be transparent, government must be less invasive and must protect citizen’s privacy. Government should limit the amount of personal data it collects and retains. Citizens should have greater control over their personal data, limiting the government’s collection and use of that data.

Auditor Dougall continued:

During my 2012 campaign, I was asked what was the ideal tenure for the State Auditor. I indicated 2 to 3 terms (8 to 12 years). I still believe that today. While I continue to have passion for our mission, I believe in the importance of new perspectives to tackle new problems. Term limits are critical for accountability, whether statutorily- or self-imposed. Now is the time for a new leader to share a vision for a better future.

The news release may be found on the Office's website at auditor.utah.gov.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities. These tools include the Transparent Utah website (transparent.utah.gov) as well as the award-winning Project KIDS public education analysis dashboards (auditor.utah.gov/kids).

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

The State Privacy Officer focuses on strengthening the privacy practices of governmental entities, like cities, counties, school districts, and colleges and universities, and is tasked in statute with focusing on government care of personal information to reduce the risk to individual privacy. The State Privacy Officer is appointed by the State Auditor.

Contact:

Nicole Davis
Public Information Officer
Office of the State Auditor
801-678-4835
ndavis@utah.gov