

Performance Audits in Pierce County Charter

Section 2.20 (1) (f)

The original Charter provision, in effect from 1981 to 1996, said that the County Council “shall have the power . . . (f) to appoint or employ competent professional personnel to conduct performance audits which shall evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of County programs and departments on a timely basis, no less often than every two years.”

As amended in November 1996, the Charter said that the Council “shall have the power . . . (f) to, and shall, employ independent and outside competent professional personnel, commencing in the first quarter of 1997, to conduct performance audits which shall evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of all County programs and departments on a timely basis, no less often than every two years.”

As amended in November 2006, the County Charter says that the Council “shall have the power . . .

"(f) to, and shall, employ independent and outside competent professional personnel and conduct an ongoing performance audit program designed to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of county government, including performance audits of any department, program, office, or other entity funded in the Pierce County budget unless prohibited by general state law. Performance audits shall be planned and conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* published by the Government Accountability Office and endorsed by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Council shall report annually to the public on the highlights of performance audits conducted that year. The annual report shall be made available to the news media and be accessible without charge by interested citizens. Within 90 days of the completion of a performance audit of a program, department or unit of county government, the Council shall hold an evening public hearing to present, review, and allow discussion of action plans developed to respond to audit findings and recommendations.”

Current Charter Language Formatted Differently

<p>1. WHAT AND WHY</p>	<p>The County Council “shall employ independent and outside competent professional personnel and conduct an ongoing performance audit program designed to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of county government,</p>
<p>2. SCOPE</p>	<p>“including performance audits of any department, program, office, or other entity funded in the Pierce County budget unless prohibited by general state law.</p>
<p>3. STANDARDS</p>	<p>“Performance audits shall be planned and conducted in accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> published by the Government Accountability Office and endorsed by the Comptroller General of the United States.</p>
<p>4. ANNUAL REPORTING</p>	<p>“The Council shall report annually to the public on the highlights of performance audits conducted that year. The annual report shall be made available to the news media and be accessible without charge by interested citizens.</p>
<p>5. EVENING MEETINGS</p>	<p>“Within 90 days of the completion of a performance audit . . . , the Council shall hold an evening public hearing to present, review, and allow discussion of action plans developed to respond to audit findings and recommendations.”</p>