

# Office of City Auditor

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<http://www.seattle.gov/audit/>

## Department Overview

The Office of City Auditor was established by City Charter and serves as Seattle's independent performance audit function. The City Auditor is appointed by the City Council to a four-year term of office.

The Office of City Auditor seeks to promote honest, efficient management and full accountability throughout City government. It serves the public interest by providing the City Council, the Mayor and City employees with accurate information, unbiased analyses and objective recommendations on how best to use public resources.

The Office of City Auditor conducts audits of City departments, programs, grantees and contracts, as well as some nonaudit projects. Most of the office's work is performed in response to specific concerns or requests from City Councilmembers, but the City Auditor also independently initiates work to fulfill the office's mission. If resources are available, the City Auditor responds to requests from the Mayor, City departments and the public.

Through its work, the Office of City Auditor answers the following types of questions:

- Are City of Seattle programs being carried out in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and is accurate information furnished to the City Council and Mayor on these programs?
- Do opportunities exist to eliminate inefficient use of public funds and waste?
- Are programs achieving desired results?
- Are there better ways to achieve program objectives at lower costs?
- Are there ways to improve the quality of service without increasing costs?
- What emerging or key issues should the City Council and Mayor consider?

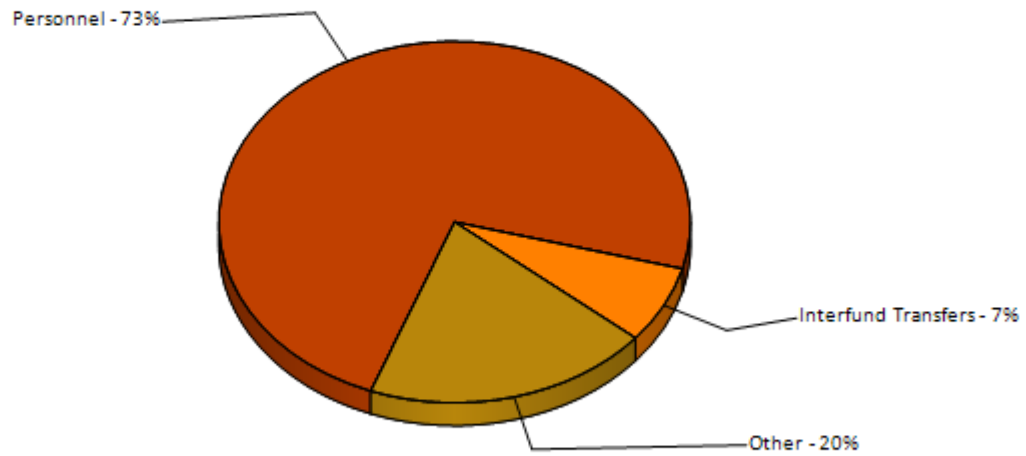
## Budget Snapshot

Department Support	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
General Fund Support	\$1,671,208	\$2,311,986	\$1,795,041	\$2,168,043
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$1,671,208</b>	<b>\$2,311,986</b>	<b>\$1,795,041</b>	<b>\$2,168,043</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$1,671,208</b>	<b>\$2,311,986</b>	<b>\$1,795,041</b>	<b>\$2,168,043</b>
Full-time Equivalent Total*	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50

\* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

# Office of City Auditor

## 2018 Proposed Budget - Expenditure by Category



### Budget Overview

The Office of City Auditor (Auditor) provides information to the Mayor, City Council, and City executive and management staff on City programs and activities. The Office offers a way for City leaders to assess various public programs objectively, ensuring the use of efficient, effective service delivery options. It also offers the public a way to hold the City accountable for how public resources are being used.

The 2018 Proposed Budget increases funding to enable the Auditor to contract with consultants and academic researchers to conduct annual reviews and evaluations of new City ordinances including the Sweetened Beverage Tax ([Ordinance 125324](#)) and the Surveillance Ordinance ([Ordinance 125376](#)).

# Office of City Auditor

## Incremental Budget Changes

### Office of City Auditor

	2018	
	Budget	FTE
<b>Total 2018 Endorsed Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,795,041</b>	<b>9.50</b>
<b>Baseline Changes</b>		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	\$ 3,002	0.00
<b>Proposed Changes</b>		
Surveillance Ordinance Funding	\$ 350,000	0.00
Evaluation of the Sweetened Beverage Tax	\$ 20,000	0.00
<b>Total Incremental Changes</b>	<b>\$ 373,002</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>2018 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$ 2,168,043</b>	<b>9.50</b>

## Descriptions of Incremental Budget Changes

### Baseline Changes

#### **Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes - \$3,002**

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, health care, and industrial insurance charges for the department. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

### Proposed Changes

#### **Surveillance Ordinance Funding - \$350,000**

In August 2017, the Seattle City Council passed the Surveillance Ordinance relating to the City's acquisition and use of surveillance technology ([Ordinance 125376](#)). The ordinance mandates new work for the Office of City Auditor including an annual review of the City's use of surveillance technology and the extent to which departments are in compliance with ordinance requirements and the terms of approved Surveillance Impact Reports. This one-time item adds \$350,000 for professional resources to help the Office of City Auditor conduct this work. Ongoing costs may be lower as the City further refines what is within the scope of the legislation; the more technologies that qualify as surveillance technologies, the heavier the workload will be for the office.

#### **Evaluation of the Sweetened Beverage Tax - \$20,000**

This item increases funding for the Office of City Auditor (Auditor) to contract with academic researchers to

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evaluate the effects of the Sweetened Beverage Tax ([Ordinance 125324](#)), including:

- economic outcomes, health behaviors and intermediate health outcomes;
- identification and assessment of food deserts in the city;
- the effectiveness and efficiency of the foodbank network in the City; and
- the process of implementing the tax, including perceptions of city residents, food retailers, tax administrators and city officials.

The legislation provides \$500,000 per year to the Auditor for the first five years of tax implementation (2018-2022). The office received an inter-fund loan for \$480,000 in the 2017 Second Quarter Supplemental Ordinance to begin work on a baseline evaluation; the remaining appropriation of \$20,000 is included in the proposed budget for 2018. For additional information about the City's use of the Sweetened Beverage Tax, see the 2018 Proposed Budget Executive Summary in the Introduction section of the budget.

### Expenditure Overview

Appropriations	Summit Code	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
Office of City Auditor Budget Control Level	VG000	1,671,208	2,311,986	1,795,041	2,168,043
<b>Department Total</b>		<b>1,671,208</b>	<b>2,311,986</b>	<b>1,795,041</b>	<b>2,168,043</b>
<b>Department Full-time Equivalents Total*</b>		<b>9.50</b>	<b>9.50</b>	<b>9.50</b>	<b>9.50</b>

*\* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.*

### Appropriations By Budget Control Level (BCL) and Program

<b>Office of City Auditor Budget Control Level</b>					
The purpose of the Office of City Auditor is to provide unbiased analyses and objective recommendations to assist the City in using public resources more equitably, efficiently and effectively in delivering services to the public.					
Program Expenditures	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed	
Office of City Auditor	1,671,208	2,311,986	1,795,041	2,168,043	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,671,208</b>	<b>2,311,986</b>	<b>1,795,041</b>	<b>2,168,043</b>	
Full-time Equivalents Total*	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	

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