

# The Auditor's Review



## 'Tis the Season of Progress and Accountability

The West Virginia State Auditor's Office continues to move West Virginia forward, championing transparency, connecting communities, and safeguarding taxpayer dollars through energetic leadership and innovation.

### WVSAO Launches Redesigned Website



The West Virginia State Auditor's Office has released a redesigned website aimed at improving public access to financial data, government resources, and departmental services. The updated layout streamlines navigation and enhances transparency across state operations.

Key links at the top of the homepage now provide direct access to information about State Auditor Mark Hunt, public meetings, FOIA requests, and **The Auditor's Review**, the office's new newsletter.

The site also features quick connections to tools frequently used by state employees, including VISTA, OneLogin, and the WV Checkbook, which tracks local government spending.

Central navigation boxes highlight essential services such as fraud reporting, prompt-payment claim filing, and enrollment in the local government purchasing card (p-card) program. Grant oversight resources and additional financial transparency tools are also included.

The updated design better showcases the 12 departments overseen by the Auditor's Office and provides improved access to WVSAO applications, search tools, contact information, and job listings. For more visit: [wvsao.gov](http://wvsao.gov)

### Community Engagement: Princeton Rotary Club Presentation

In late October, WVSAO's Deputy Chief Financial Officer Austin McVey spoke at the Princeton Rotary Club, where he shared updates on the Auditor's Office initiatives and discussed the expanding impact of the WVSAO across the state.

In addition to highlighting recent fraud recovery successes and the benefits of transparency tools like WV Checkbook, McVey shared his own personal journey and experiences working with the WVSAO. Through stories drawn from his role, he emphasized the value of building relationships with local government officials and describes how teamwork and dedication make a difference for communities. His presentation provided club members and civic leaders with both practical insights and a renewed sense of collaboration for public service in southern West Virginia.

### In the Spotlight:

We're proud to share timely, positive press about our programs and achievements. For more information, click each headline to read the full story:

- [Marshall and Mingo Counties Join WV Checkbook to Advance Transparency](#)
- [State Auditor's Office presents WV Checkbook](#)
- [Auditor's Office Welcomes Vienna, Beckley, Clarksburg & More to WV Checkbook](#)
- [Secretary of State Kris Warner Reports 1,576 New WV Business Registrations for October of 2025](#)

## New Faces at WVSAO

### Ethan Lauchart – Director of Marketing and Public Affairs

Ethan Lauchart is no stranger to shaping the voice of government in West Virginia. A Charleston native and holder of both a Master's of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia State University, he brings more than four years of experience in government relations, grassroots organizing, and digital campaign management to the WVSAO. Leading the charge in strategic communications, Lauchart fuses legislative advocacy, public relations, and authentic community outreach into every initiative the office delivers. His driven, innovative approach ensures that WVSAO's mission of transparency and accountability resonates in every corner of the state. Lauchart's ability to foster deep connections across public and stakeholder communities keeps the office at the forefront of effective, trusted government service.

### Madlyn R. Alqutub – Multimedia Specialist

Madlyn Alqutub brings a dynamic and creative flair to WVSAO's outreach and communications. Renowned for her talents in digital storytelling, newsletter strategy, and public information campaigns, she is also an excellent graphic designer whose visual skills elevate the Auditor's messaging and makes it resonate with audiences. Her successful track record leading communications for the West Virginia Association of Counties provides her with valuable perspective and versatility. While pursuing her MBA at Marshall University, Alqutub combines design expertise with thoughtful communication, playing an essential role in strengthening WVSAO's connection with communities across West Virginia.

### Kristen Deakins – Tax Clerk

Kristen Deakins brings a dependable and solutions-focused presence to her new workplace in the Auditor's Office. With a strong background in administrative support, customer service, and insurance claims processing, she is known for her efficiency, professionalism, and ability to adapt quickly in fast-paced environments. Deakin's experience spans call centers, healthcare administration, hospitality, and community advocacy, giving her a well-rounded understanding of how to meet people's needs with clarity and compassion.

At The Health Plan, Deakins supported FSA/HRA claims with precision, drawing on her strengths in data entry, document management, and problem-solving. Her earlier roles in customer service and advocacy sharpened her communication skills and her talent for resolving complex issues with patience and care. Resourceful, detail-oriented, and committed to providing exceptional support, Deakins plays a key role in ensuring smooth operations and positive experiences for the individuals and communities she serves.

### Vanessa Nice - Tax Clerk

Vanessa Nice has more than seven years of hands-on experience in healthcare settings bringing a steady, compassionate, and detail-driven presence to the Auditor's Office. Her background spans behavioral health, neurology, cardiology, and hospital patient care, giving her a well-rounded understanding of how to support individuals and teams with professionalism and empathy.

In her most recent role as a Behavioral Health Technician at Highland Hospital, Nice assisted patients with daily living needs, monitored vital signs, supported therapeutic activities, and maintained meticulous, HIPAA-compliant records. Her strong communication skills and calm approach in crisis situations made her a trusted person to both patients and clinical staff.

Nice is known for her reliability and strong command of administrative workflows, someone who ensures every interaction is met with clarity, respect, and a commitment to excellent service. Her blend of clinical experience, office expertise, and genuine people skills makes her a valuable addition to the team.



West Virginia is the first state in the nation to launch a real-time, public-facing financial transparency platform for all counties and municipalities. Thanks to the [WV Checkbook](#) initiative led by our office!

## WV Checkbook: Transparency in Action



With pride, the WVSAO celebrates the expansion of the WV Checkbook initiative. Led by Jacob Lindroth, our dedicated Transparency & Oversight Coordinator, the program welcomed both Marshall and Mingo counties in October 2025, among the latest to join a growing roster of counties and municipalities committed to letting citizens see every public dollar in action.

Jacob's leadership has driven this program's success, making it easier than ever for residents to explore real-time county revenues, expenditures, and budgets with just a click. The WV Checkbook sets a gold standard for open government in West Virginia and is available online for everyone to use.

## Guarding Your Dollars: Restitution & Recovery

### Ft. Gay Case:

The Public Integrity & Fraud Unit's work this month led to indictments in Ft. Gay for the misappropriation of \$370,000. This result demonstrates the WVSAO's vigilance and persistence in protecting public resources and holding officials accountable for breaches of trust.

### Marshall County Case:

Our oversight also saw an important resolution as the former Marshall County Assessor entered a guilty plea and provided financial restitution. This action underscores the Auditor's Office commitment to restoring public funds and enforcing accountability at every level of local government.



## On the Move: Office Activities & Announcements



State Auditor Mark Hunt speaking at the State Purchasing Card Coordinators Training

### Empowering Public Service through Education

Since our last newsletter on October 6, the West Virginia State Auditor's Office has been busy driving positive changes, enhancing accountability, and strengthening relationships throughout the state. One of the month's highlights was the Purchasing Card Administrators Conference (P-CAC), where administrative staff from across West Virginia gathered to

exchange best practices, reinforce compliance standards, and expand their technical expertise. This event not only strengthened P-card management statewide but also promoted valuable peer-to-peer dialogue among public finance professionals.

The office led targeted P-card training sessions at Canaan Valley, where our team delivered up-to-date coordinator education focused on ethics, regulatory updates, and practical scenarios. These sessions allowed local governments and agencies to refresh their knowledge and ensure rigorous stewardship of public dollars. Such efforts reflect WVSao's continuous commitment to equipping public servants with the tools to operate transparently and efficiently.

### Clarksburg Office Update: Improving Workspace, Boosting Value

A major operational advancement this month was the relocation of our Local Government Services Division to Clarksburg. The move consolidates our resources and results in more than \$100,000 in annual savings for taxpayers. The new office space, equipped with modern amenities, offers enhanced comfort and productivity for both staff and guests, a testament to the Auditor's focus on smart, cost-effective solutions.

## TRIVIA



What is the only West Virginia county named after a woman.  
*What is the county?*

Email your answer to:  
[communications@wvsao.gov](mailto:communications@wvsao.gov)

Stay up to date!



## Upcoming Deadlines

- ⇒ P-card annual compliance reports due: December 10, 2025
- ⇒ WV Checkbook year-end data updates due: January 15, 2026
- ⇒ Nomination deadline for staff "Bravo!" feature: December 20, 2025
- ⇒ Register for January P-card coordinator training: Opens December 1, 2025



Introducing a new monthly feature in the newsletter: Bravo. Each month, we will recognize a team member who has gone above and beyond in their role. This is our opportunity to celebrate the dedication, innovation, and positive impact an employee brings to the State Auditor's Office.

### How It Works:

- Nominations: Team members can nominate a colleague who has demonstrated exceptional performance, teamwork, leadership, or service.
- The selected employee will be highlighted in the newsletter with a short profile, including their contributions, achievements and a few fun facts.

We encourage everyone to participate and help us recognize those who make a difference every day. Stay tuned for our first Employee Spotlight next month!

Please submit nominations to:  
[communications@wvsao.gov](mailto:communications@wvsao.gov)

## CONTACT US:

### General Office & Administrative Division

Email: [wvsao@wvsao.gov](mailto:wvsao@wvsao.gov)  
Phone: (304) 558-2251  
Toll-Free (statewide): (877) 982-9148

### Local Government Services Division

Email: [LocalGovernment@wvsao.gov](mailto:LocalGovernment@wvsao.gov)  
Phone: (304) 558-3905

### Public Integrity & Fraud Unit

Email: [fraud@wvsao.gov](mailto:fraud@wvsao.gov)  
Toll-Free: (877) 982-9148

### Transparency & Oversight (WV Checkbook)

Email: [checkbook@wvsao.gov](mailto:checkbook@wvsao.gov)  
Phone: (304) 558-2251

### Securities

Email: [securities@wvsao.gov](mailto:securities@wvsao.gov)

### P-Card

[pcardoperations@wvsao.gov](mailto:pcardoperations@wvsao.gov)

### Auditing

[auditing@wvsao.gov](mailto:auditing@wvsao.gov)

### Information Technology

[wvsao\\_helpdesk@wvsao.gov](mailto:wvsao_helpdesk@wvsao.gov)

### Land

[land@wvsao.gov](mailto:land@wvsao.gov)

### Communications Team

Email: [communications@wvsao.gov](mailto:communications@wvsao.gov)  
Phone: (304) 558-2251

For additional assistance or specific inquiries, visit [wvsao.gov](http://wvsao.gov) or contact our main office!