





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Bay Area Council of Governments  
Erie County  
4918 Milan Road  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, on the the Bay Area Council of Governments, Erie County, Ohio (the Council) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Council. The Council is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash-basis accounting records for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Council.

The Council Board of Directors and the management of the Council have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Council's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in its cash-basis accounting records for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

### Cash

1. North Point Educational Center (the Center) is the custodian for the Council's deposits, and therefore the Center's deposit and investment pool holds the Council's assets. We compared the Council's fund balance reported on its June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023 Financial Summary Report to the balance reported in Center's accounting records. The amounts agreed.
2. We agreed the July 1, 2022 beginning fund balance recorded in the Financial Summary Report to documentation in the prior year working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the July 1, 2023 beginning fund balance recorded in the Financial Summary Report to the June 30, 2023 balance in the Financial Summary Report. We found no exceptions.

### **Member Contributions**

We selected five member contribution cash receipts from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 and five member contribution cash receipts from the year fiscal ended June 30, 2023 recorded in the duplicate cash receipts book and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount to the amount recorded in the Financial Detail Report. The amounts agreed.
- b. Agreed the amount charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the Financial Detail Report to determine the receipt was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

### **Debt**

1. The prior documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of June 30, 2022.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the Financial Detail Report for evidence of debt issued during fiscal year 2024 or 2023 or debt payment activity during fiscal year 2024 or 2023. No new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during fiscal year 2024 or 2023 was found.

### **Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

We selected ten disbursements from the Financial Detail Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 and ten from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Financial Detail report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

1. We obtained and inspected the Council's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any public records requests (completed, denied, or redacted) during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Council had a records retention schedule and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inspected the Council's policy manual and determined the Public Records Policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We observed that the Council's poster describing its Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Council as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

7. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any elected officials subject to the public records training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Council notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
  - a. Prepared - a file is created following the date of the meeting.
  - b. Filed - placed with similar documents in an organized manner.
  - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
  - d. Open to public inspection - available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
  - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
  - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
  - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

### Other Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires councils who report pursuant to general accepted accounting principles to file their financial information in the Hinkle system within 150 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Council filed its complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy within the allotted timeframe for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 in the Hinkle System. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the Council to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Council's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Council and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

December 16, 2024

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**BAY AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**ERIE COUNTY**

## **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 12/31/2024**

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)