



WYMANews

State of Connecticut
Office of the State Comptroller
55 Elm Street
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Volume 2 Issue 3

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AUDIT BEGINS



The Comptroller's office has begun an audit of the state Department of Social Services to determine if savings can be found in the agency's annual budget of more than \$5 billion.

Comptroller Wyman said the main goal of this audit is to improve the transparency of how DSS handles its budget, which makes up more than a quarter of all state spending. The results of the audit will be used by the General Assembly during the current legislative session to determine whether changes should be made in the agency's budget.

"The bottom line is that government owes it to our taxpayers to closely track how this huge amount of money is being spent, and if the state is getting the best bang for the buck," Comptroller Wyman said.

The initial focus of the audit will be on how DSS is handling the state's HUSKY health insurance plan that serves more than 200,000 lower-income children and teenagers at an annual cost of about \$700 million.

The audit is examining how DSS determined the rates to be paid to health care providers in the HUSKY program, and whether a sound actuarial basis exists for possibly lowering that rate.

The audit - requested by Democratic leadership in the House and Senate - is being conducted by Milliman Inc. with the assistance of members of the Comptroller's staff. Cost of the audit is estimated to be less than \$100,000.

"In times of tight budgets it's especially important that the state negotiate the lowest delivery price it can get from its vendors," Comptroller Wyman said. "I believe that the money spent on this audit will pay dividends for years to come."

The audit also will determine if DSS's accounting and bill-paying procedures can be improved by integrating into the state's CORE-CT computer system, which would allow the Comptroller and the legislature to independently review the DSS budget on an ongoing basis.

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THE COMPTROLLER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibilities of the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) were first laid down in the State Constitution in 1786, and have been amplified over the years in the Connecticut General Statutes. According to Article Fourth, Section 24 of the State Constitution, the State Comptroller "shall adjust and settle all public accounts and demands, except grants and orders of the general assembly. He shall prescribe the mode of keeping and rendering all public accounts."

In addition, state law charges the office to adjust and/or settle all demands against the state not first adjusted and settled by the General Assembly; to prepare all accounting statements relating to the financial condition of the state; to pay all wages and salaries of state employees; to develop and implement new computerized payroll, personnel, accounting and budgeting systems; and to administer miscellaneous appropriations for employee taxes, health services and insurance, as well as grants to police, firefighters and municipalities.

E-NOTIFICATION

WYMANews and
Press Releases

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*AY WISH TO YOU
ATE COMPTROLLER
NANCY WYMAN*

*As we celebrate this holiday season,
I would like to wish all of you good
health and prosperity in the New Year.*

*During these difficult financial times,
it is even more important that families
and neighbors and communities work
together to help those less fortunate,
and I hope you take the
opportunity to do so.*

*I also hope that you will join me in a
moment of reflection to ask for peace
in the world, and for the safety of
those who defend it
both here and abroad.*



**Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Tie One On For Safety Campaign
East Hartford**



**American Red Cross Tiffany Event
Hartford**



**VFW Salute to CT Veterans
Brainard Airport, Hartford**



**Wreaths Across America
Ceremonies in
Old Saybrook and Hamden**

State Comptroller Nancy Wyman reported that the state's projected budget deficit has more than tripled in the past month to \$338 million, and is expected to grow larger by the end of the fiscal year.

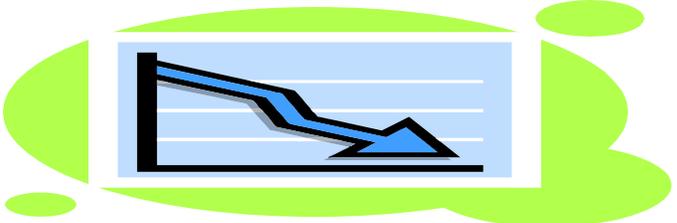
Wyman's estimate – which is about \$50 million higher than that made by the Governor's budget office - includes the \$71.8 million in deficit-mitigation cuts passed by the General Assembly late last month. Because the deficit estimate now exceeds one percent of total General Fund appropriations for fiscal 2009, or \$177 million, the Governor is required to submit a new mitigation plan to the legislature within 30 days.

"I anticipate that as deteriorating economic conditions are further reflected within actual revenue collections, my deficit estimate will rise," Wyman wrote in her monthly report to the Governor.

The Comptroller expects the income tax to bring in about \$131 million less than originally budgeted, while the sales tax is projected to drop by about \$207 million.

Connecticut has lost 7,100 jobs so far this fiscal year, about half in October alone. Payroll withholding income tax receipts are down 2.8 percent from a year ago. The state's unemployment rate of 6.5 percent is at a 15-year high.

Latest State Financial Projection



Advance retail sales are down 4.1 percent from last year and corporate profits continue to show negative results. Existing home sales are at a 12-year low in the state.

Wyman again called on the Governor and the legislature to address not only the current revenue shortfall, but an additional \$500 million "structural deficit" that has been created by using prior years' surplus funds to pay for current expenses. If no plan is created to deal with the overall deficit by the end of the fiscal year June 30, she said, state law requires that any deficit be automatically covered by the state's Rainy Day Fund, which now stands at about \$1.4 billion.

Where has Wyman been lately ...



**CT Alliance for Business Opportunities
GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Hartford**



**African American Affairs Commission
Reception for 8th President of St
Joseph College Pamela Trotman Reid**



**Wallingford Rotary Club
Meeting**



**Tolland Imaging Ribbon Cutting
Tolland**



**Grand Opening of Bernie's
Brookfield**



**MidState Medical Center
Groundbreaking Ceremony, Meriden**

Inside the Comptroller's Office



New London Police Anniversary
Comptroller Wyman with Chip Segar



Welcome Home and Freedom Salute
Send-Off Ceremony, Hartford

Payroll Services Division

The Payroll Services Division pays all state employees, handles all payroll deductions, and maintains records on payroll taxes and deposits federal and state income tax withholding and social security contributions. It pre-audits and issues state employee and deduction checks on a bi-weekly basis; submits deduction reports; maintains wage execution records, and administers savings bonds and direct deposit programs.

The payroll system accommodates unique state payroll requirements including interfaces with central agencies, mass salary changes, collective bargaining information, complex accounting transactions and extensive management reporting.

MISSION

To provide accounting and financial services, to administer employee benefits, to develop accounting policy and exercise accounting oversight, and to prepare financial reports for state, federal and municipal governments and the public.



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UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS



President Harry S. Truman On Health Care

We should resolve now that the health of this nation is a national concern; that financial barriers in the way of attaining health shall be removed; that the health of all it's citizens deserves the help of all the nation.

DECEMBER

- 9—CT Veterans Hall of Fame Induction
Hartford
- 12 - State Bond Commission Meeting
Hartford
- 21 - Chanukah
- 25— Christmas Day
State Offices Closed
- 31—New Years Eve

JANUARY

- 1—New Years Day
State Offices Closed
- 7—General Assembly Session Begins
Hartford
- 19—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
State Offices Closed
- 20—Presidential Inauguration Ceremony
Washington, DC
- 21—CT Council of Small Towns Town Meeting
Cromwell

FEBRUARY

- 12—Lincoln's Birthday
State Offices Closed
- 14—Valentine's Day
- 16—Washington's Birthday
State Offices Closed
- 26— American Heart Association Go Red For Women Luncheon
Hartford

