



# Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector

News Release

For Immediate Release

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## State Auditor's First 100 Days: Positive and Productive Changes

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Auditor Gary Jones said he's kept up a fast pace on behalf of taxpayers, elected officials and agency heads since taking office on January 10, 2011.

Looking back on his first 100 days in office, Jones said the changes he's implemented have been received positively by both agency personnel and clients and have increased productivity and output.

"One of my biggest concerns was the backlog of county audits, some dated back as far as 2005," Jones said. "I also believed the agency could do a better job of shortening the time it was taking to complete audits, especially special investigative audits. We did a little restructuring within the agency to achieve that goal."

During the first 100 days of the Jones administration, the State Auditor's Office released 136 audits. The figure represents a 74.4% increase over the 78 audits released during the same period in 2010, including 46 turnover audits of county officials.

To better assist county officials obtain useful audit information, Jones successfully sought a change in the law governing county financial audits. SB130 cleared the legislature on March 30<sup>th</sup> and was signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin the next day.

"For county officials, this measure means greater efficiency in conducting county audits and that translates into lower costs at a time when all government entities are squeezing every penny out of tight budgets," Jones said. "Because of these changes in the law, my office will be able to conduct timely, meaningful financial and performance audits of county government that will actually be beneficial to current county government officials."

In many cases, by the time an audit was completed, the officials in office during the scope of the audit had been replaced. Similarly, special investigative audit requests have been waiting for up to two years before beginning.

"I'm placing special emphasis on clearing up the backlog of investigative audits," Jones said. "These requests involve allegations of fraud, waste or abuse and we have an obligation to get these audits conducted and completed so that the facts can be presented and, if necessary, individuals prosecuted."

For more information about the job public officials are performing in safeguarding taxpayer dollars, visit the State Auditor's website at [www.sai.ok.gov](http://www.sai.ok.gov).

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