



Guide to auditing and research in WA

Washington has several state entities that analyze public programs and recommend improvements.

About	Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) LEGISLATIVE AGENCY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 professional staff. <p>JLARC staff adhere to the same confidentiality standards as all nonpartisan legislative staff.</p>	Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) HIGHER EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 staff, including researchers. 	State Auditor's Office (SAO) EXECUTIVE BRANCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 performance auditors. • 240 financial auditors.
Study direction	LEGISLATURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy bills and budget provisos. 	LEGISLATURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy bills and budget provisos. WSIPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract-based work if it aligns with WSIPP's mission. • Board members are from the Legislature, executive branch, and academic community 	STATE AUDITOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independently elected auditor chooses study topics.
Study information	STUDY TYPES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance audits of any state program or service. • Tax preference reviews. • Sunset reviews. EXAMPLES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance audit: Paid Family and Medical Leave program. • Tax preference review: Preferences for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. TIMEFRAME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 to 18 months. Some may take several years. 	STUDY TYPES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome evaluations. • Benefit-cost analysis. • Meta-analysis. • Evidence- and research-based inventories. • Survey and qualitative analysis. EXAMPLES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of post-release education outcomes for individuals in WA prisons. • Inventory of the research evidence behind and economic consequences of DOC corrections programs. TIMEFRAME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 to 24 months. Some may take several years. 	STUDY TYPES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial audits of state and local governments. • Performance audits of state and local governments. • Cybersecurity audits. EXAMPLES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A performance audit of civil asset forfeitures. • A cybersecurity audit of IT practices and network strength for local governments. TIMEFRAME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by SAO.



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