



National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 June 24, 2013

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House Committee Discusses “Reinventing Government”

Last Tuesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing on the aspects of reorganizing and “reinventing government.” The hearing featured former Comptroller General David Walker, who is current chairman of the Government Transformation Initiative, which aims to create a Government Transformation Commission to transform the federal government in order to improve its operational performance. The hearing also featured Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Goldsmith outlined several ways that government could improve its efficiencies:

- Producing solutions, not activities, through outcome-oriented governance and a better balance of accountability and discretion in civil service.
- Changing the structures of government to incent results.
- Realigning the public/private relationship.
- Utilizing data analytics and open source transparency to reveal root causes and save money.

The three-plus hour hearing delved into an array of government functions: Food Stamp fraud reduction, sequestration cuts, and the abdication of Congressional responsibility to make tough policy decisions, just to name a few. Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) told the panel at the conclusion of the hearing that there will be more hearings on the issue.

Archived hearing video and all of the panelist’s papers can be found at

<http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/reinventing-government/>.

MSRB Releases New Municipal Market Videos

The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board has released new educational videos for investors about what they should expect from their brokers when investing in the municipal securities market. The videos focus on several key obligations of brokers when engaging in municipal securities transactions. In an announcement,

the MSRB made it clear that “Investors should also always understand the costs and risks associated with investing in municipal securities.” The third video in the series specifically addresses that concern, indicating that “...This video explains the obligation of financial professionals to provide all relevant information about a municipal security investment to their clients.”

The new videos can be found at <http://msrb.org/Municipal-Bond-Market/Investor-Resources/Investor-Toolkit.aspx>.

GOVERNING Webinars Look at Impending State Health Exchanges and High-Performance Government

Last Tuesday, *GOVERNING* magazine hosted the first of two webinars related to state finances and key issues facing state governments. The first webinar, *The Countdown to Affordable Health Insurance: Time is Running Out!*, delved into the impending state health insurance exchange implementation, asking bluntly: “Is your state ready for Marketplace open enrollment in October 2013?” With the deadline approaching fast, the webinar examined the following questions:

- How should states educate consumers?
- What are the issues at hand?
- What current resources can be used?
- How can you ready your agency for the changes ahead?

Speakers included Jon Hager, executive director of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange for the state of Nevada, and Jessica Kendall, national outreach director for Enroll America.

The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

On Thursday, *GOVERNING* revisited a familiar topic: shared services in government functions. The webinar, *High-Performance Government - Building “Better, Faster, Cheaper,”* took a fresh look at some case studies involving improved cost controls, increases in operational efficiency, and how governments can measure the concept of “high-performance” delivery in citizen services. Speakers included Phil Bertoli-

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ni, CIO and deputy county executive of Oakland County, Michigan, and Rosa Waymon, director of the Office of Human Resource Management at the Georgia Department of Human Services.

The presentation can be found [here](#).