



STATE OF DELAWARE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Dover, Del. – *State Auditor R. Thomas Wagner, Jr.* responds to Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair’s comment on doing more with less.

Historically, I’ve taken an active position of doing more with less as demonstrated by my reduction in staff from 57 full-time employees when I took Office in 1989 to 42 through attrition. Despite my own efforts to downsize the Office and to my objections, my staffing was further cut down to an all-time low of 25 by the General Assembly in 2008. **No other State Office historically has taken such a drastic hit in staffing levels.**

During my tenure as State Auditor the State budget has more than tripled. In fiscal year 2013 the State recorded more than \$7.5 Billion in revenue. It goes without saying there is plenty of risk and opportunity for fraud, waste and abuse and the need for non-partisan audits and investigations.

For that reason, I need the ability to hire and maintain the best and brightest in the government audit industry. In order to do so, my staff’s salaries must be competitive. When I took Office, there was no one on staff with professional certifications, i.e. Certified Public Accountant. Today, I am proud to say everyone with the exception of the recent college graduates have at least one certification. This is reflected in the quality of our work.

I am not requesting more positions. I am not requesting more money. What I am requesting is the approval of the OMB Director’s recommendation to rectify audit position pay scale deficiencies.