

Ombudsperson Amendment Text

(Language ~~stricken~~ is deleted; underlined language is new.)

CHAPTER VIII. FINANCE

8.10. Auditor.

8.20. Bonded Indebtedness.

8.10. Auditor.

(1) The office of county auditor is hereby established.

(2) At the general November election in 1966 and at the general November election every four years thereafter an auditor shall be elected. A candidate for auditor shall be a certified public accountant or certified internal auditor as of the date of filing for office, subject to the following provision. The office of auditor shall become vacant when the person serving as auditor ceases to be certified. Effective upon certification, the salary for the auditor shall be four-fifths of a circuit court judge's salary.

(3) The auditor shall conduct performance audits of all county operations and financial affairs and make reports thereof to the board of county commissioners according to generally accepted government auditing standards. The auditor may also conduct studies intended to measure or improve the performance of county efforts.

(4) The ombudsperson function is established within the office of auditor.

(a) Under the auditor's direction, the ombudsperson is readily available to the public as an impartial resource authorized to receive and investigate complaints and make related reports about administrative actions of the county with the goal of safeguarding the rights of the public and promoting high standards of fairness, competency, efficiency and justice in the provision of county services.

(b) The ombudsperson shall not investigate the acts of an elected official or the official's personal staff, matters currently in litigation, matters subject to collective bargaining agreement grievance procedures, violations of county personnel rules, or discrimination complaints from an employee or applicant for employment.

(c) The ombudsperson shall be guided by generally accepted standards for governmental ombudsmen serving the public.

(5) The chair of the board of commissioners or the responsible elected official shall respond in writing to all audit and ombudsperson reports stating what actions have been or will be taken to address the findings contained in the audit or ombudsperson report. The written response shall be made to the board and the auditor in the manner and time frame requested by the auditor.

~~(5)~~(6) The board shall retain each report of the auditor and each response as a public record for at least three years after receiving the report and response.