

Santa Cruz County

CONCLUSION: Based on our audits, we issued opinions on the County's financial statements and federal expenditure schedule concluding that the information in those statements and schedule is reliable. We also issued reports over the County's internal control and compliance over financial reporting and select federal programs, which identified internal control weaknesses and instances of noncompliance over financial reporting and federal awards that are explained on the next page.

County overview

County provided wide range of services for its citizens—In fiscal year 2018, the County provided a wide range of government services for its over 46,000 citizens. In addition to managing general operations, such as property assessments and taxes, budgeting and finance, and elections, the County provided for public safety, such as law enforcement, court services, and flood control infrastructure; public health and welfare by providing medical assistance and contributions to Arizona's long-term care system; highway and street construction and maintenance; and community services, such as parks and recreation, libraries, and services to school districts. The County borders Mexico to the South and encompasses approximately 1,250 square miles.

County responsible for accurate financial report—The County is responsible for accurately preparing its [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#), maintaining effective internal controls, and being accountable for its use of public monies. Select financial information from the County's CAFR is presented below. However, the County's CAFR should be read to fully understand its overall financial picture. Our Office's [Financial Report User Guide for State and Local Governments](#) will help readers identify and understand important and useful information in the County's CAFR.

County financial information

Asset, liability, and net position balances on June 30, 2018

Total assets/deferred outflows = \$159.9 million

Select asset balances:

\$122.6 M	Capital assets
21.7	Cash and investments
5.5	Due from others and receivables

Total liabilities/deferred inflows = \$110.7 million

Select liability balances:

\$52.4 M	Long-term debt
50.2	Noncurrent employee benefits
3.6	Current payables

County's net position = \$49.2 million

None of this net position is unrestricted

Revenues and expenses during fiscal year 2018¹

Total revenues = \$50.6 million

Select revenue sources:

\$17.2 M	Federal and State grants and programs
14.4	County property taxes
7.9	Shared State sales taxes
5.0	County sales taxes

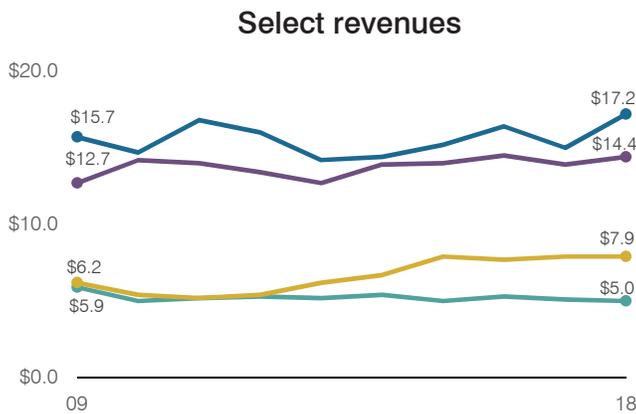
Total expenses = \$56.6 million

Select expenses by function:

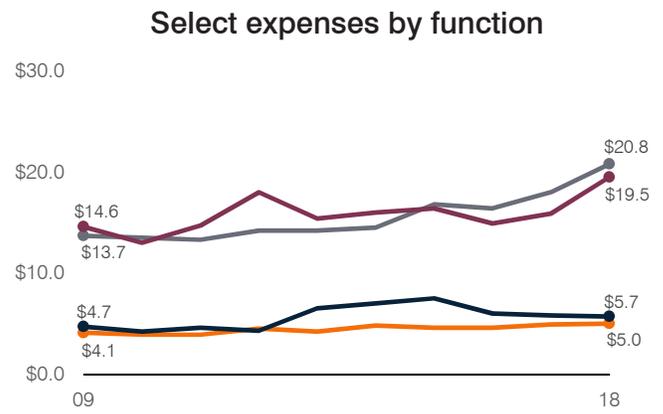
\$20.8 M	General government
19.5	Public safety
5.7	Highways and streets
5.0	Health and welfare

¹ Increases in the County's estimated long-term net pension liability primarily contributed to its total government expenses exceeding revenues by \$6.0 million, or 11.8 percent. The County's CAFR contains further information that addresses this outcome in fiscal year 2018.

Select revenues and expenses by function Fiscal years 2009 through 2018 (In millions)



- **Federal and State grants and programs**—Federal and State government grants and programs awarded as assistance to the County and its citizens, including highway user tax revenues for authorized transportation purposes.
- **County property taxes**—Taxes the County levies on the assessed value of real and personal property within the County. The County Treasurer collects the tax revenues.
- **Shared State sales taxes**—Sales taxes the State of Arizona collects and the Arizona State Treasurer distributes to the County based on the State's statutory distribution formulas.
- **County sales taxes**—Local sales taxes consist of general unrestricted taxes and those restricted for jail operations. In fiscal year 2018, both amounts were \$2.5 million.



- **General government**—General operation, oversight, and administration of County operations, including property assessments and taxes, budgeting and finance, and elections.
- **Public safety**—Protection of persons and property of the County. The largest portion of these expenses are for County jail operations, County Sheriff's office services, probation services, and Flood Control District operations.
- **Highways and streets**—Construction and maintenance of highways, streets, and bridges within the County.
- **Health and welfare**—Public assistance and institutional care for individuals who are economically unable to provide for themselves, including required State shared sales taxes withheld for Arizona's long-term care system.

Source: Auditor General staff summary of information obtained from the County's CAFRs.

Audit findings and recommendations

Below is a summary of our reports over the County's internal control and compliance over financial reporting and over federal programs that are included in the County's [Single Audit Report](#) where there is detailed information about our findings and the County's responses. For help in understanding important information presented in these reports, please refer to our Office's [Internal Control and Compliance Reports User Guide](#).

Financial reporting internal control

We found that the County needed improvements in certain controls over financial reporting and reported 5 findings. Most importantly, we found the County lacked adequate policies and procedures over IT systems and data to appropriately respond to risks and to prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized or inappropriate access or use, damage, or loss, including protecting sensitive citizen data. To ensure its financial and other sensitive data is protected, the County needs to continue to update and implement policies and procedures over its IT systems and data.

Financial findings and recommendations

Federal internal control and compliance

The County spent almost \$5 million of federal program monies during the fiscal year. We tested 2 federal programs selected under the major program guidelines established by the Single Audit Act, including the Community Development Block Grant and Homeland Security Grant programs, which totaled over \$2 million in federal expenditures. We reported a weakness in internal control and instance of noncompliance over the County's administration of the Homeland Security Grant program.

Federal findings and recommendations