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Missouri State Auditor

CITIZENS SUMMARY

Findings in the audit of the Office of the Governor

Payment of Operating Costs by Other State Agencies	As noted in prior audits, the Governor's office continued to supplement operations using appropriations of other state agencies. The office increased this practice despite appropriation bill provisions prohibiting most state agencies from paying staffing and travel costs of the Governor's office. In addition, the office delayed some payments until the following fiscal year, circumventing the appropriation process established by the General Assembly. As a result, the Governor's office under reported the true costs of operating the office. In total for the 2 years ended June 30, 2016, the operating expenditures of the office, mansion, and Governor's Security Division effectively exceeded appropriated amounts by at least $2.2 million.
Boards and Commissions	The Governor's office did not have adequate procedures to ensure vacancies and expired terms on boards and commissions were filled timely, or to dissolve them when they were no longer needed. In addition, related records were not always complete and accurate.
Mansion	As noted in the prior audit, the Governor's office did not ensure fees charged for mansion events sponsored by outside entities were sufficient to fully recover event costs; did not document information required by state policy for events hosted by the Governor; and did not segregate accounting duties. Mansion costs to the state increased from about $176,000 in fiscal year 2013 to about $359,000 in fiscal year 2016.
Use of State Resources for Political and Personal Purposes	The Governor used the security and transportation resources provided by the MSHP for all official, political, and personal activities. The state also paid the personal food costs for the Governor and his family. The Governor did not reimburse the state for any political or personal use of state resources. Based on flight utilization records and the Governor's official calendar, the number of Governor's flights between Jefferson City and St. Louis significantly increased near the end of his term when he began staying some nights at his new residence in St. Louis.
Employee Travel	As similarly noted in two prior audit reports, the Governor's office did not take adequate measures to minimize travel costs. The office did not always evaluate whether commercial flights would be more economical than state planes for out-of-state trips. Employees often made lodging reservations without performing price comparisons to ensure costs were reasonable.
Personnel Policies and Procedures	As noted in the prior two audits, the Governor's office did not establish comprehensive written policies and procedures for the operation of the office and did not prepare performance appraisals for employees.

Capital Assets	Records and procedures to account for the Governor's office and mansion property were not adequate. Capital asset records were incomplete and inaccurate, and annual physical inventories of mansion assets were not performed.

In the areas audited, the overall performance of this entity was Fair.*

***The rating(s) cover only audited areas and do not reflect an opinion on the overall operation of the entity. Within that context, the rating scale indicates the following:

Excellent: The audit results indicate this entity is very well managed. The report contains no findings. In addition, if applicable, prior recommendations have been implemented.

Good: The audit results indicate this entity is well managed. The report contains few findings, and the entity has indicated most or all recommendations have already been, or will be, implemented. In addition, if applicable, many of the prior recommendations have been implemented.

Fair: The audit results indicate this entity needs to improve operations in several areas. The report contains several findings, or one or more findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated several recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, several prior recommendations have not been implemented.

Poor: The audit results indicate this entity needs to significantly improve operations. The report contains numerous findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated most recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, most prior recommendations have not been implemented.

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