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CITIZENS SUMMARY

Findings in the audit of the City of St. Louis - Local Taxing Districts

Establishment and Evaluation of Local Taxing Districts	The City of St. Louis does not have a comprehensive economic development plan that provides a strategic approach for establishing and evaluating local taxing districts.
Community Improvement Districts	City officials allow Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) to form and operate without adequate public scrutiny to ensure these districts are in the best interest of the public. The city does not have procedures in place to ensure CIDs in the city provide annual budgets and annual performance reports as required by state law.
Transportation Development Districts	City officials do not scrutinize proposed Transportation Development District (TDD) projects to ensure the project is in the best interest of the public or if the cost of the project is a prudent use of taxpayer funds. The city has not appointed advisors to any of the TDD Board of Directors as required by state law.
Special Business Districts	The city did not establish any of the 21 current Special Business Districts in accordance with state law.

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

*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.



Recommendations in the audit of City of St. Louis Local Taxing Districts

Establishment and Evaluation of Local Taxing Districts	The City of St. Louis establish a comprehensive economic development plan that defines parameters for establishing and approving local taxing districts. In addition, the comprehensive economic development plan should establish thresholds on the number of districts approved and the amount of taxes to be collected.
Community Improvement Districts	<p>The City of St. Louis:</p> <p>2.1 Establish procedures to perform and document an evaluation of CID petitions to ensure a potential district is in the best interest of the public before adopting an ordinance establishing the district. Also, ensure the CID is structured in a way that provides independent oversight of CID activities.</p> <p>2.2 Establish procedures to ensure CIDs are submitting annual budgets and annual performance reports to the city within the timeframe required by state law.</p>
Transportation Development Districts	<p>The City of St. Louis:</p> <p>3.1 Establish procedures to perform an evaluation of proposed TDD projects and document their results to ensure the project is in the best interest of the public and the cost of the project is a prudent use of taxpayer funds before approval.</p> <p>3.2 Establish procedures to ensure advisors are appointed to the TDD Board of Directors in accordance with state law.</p>
Special Business Districts	The City of St. Louis establish procedures to ensure survey and investigation reports are prepared for all SBDs, filed with the City Register, and made available to the public.