



NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

December 6, 2017

Presiding Commissioner Bob Curtin
Commissioner Harold Bengsch
Commissioner Lincoln P. Hough
Greene County Commission Office
933 N. Robberson Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

Dear Commissioners:

My office received a complaint through our Whistleblower Hotline alleging that public resources were used to advocate for the November 7, 2017, 1/2 cent ballot measure in violation of Section 115.646, RSMo.

The allegations presented to my office include that county employees were asked to perform duties related to the Invest In Greene County Political Action Committee, to perform duties advocating for the ballot measure as a condition of employment, and to provide documents and resources to the committee. The allegations brought forward to the State Auditor's Whistleblower Hotline indicate county officials or employees accepted donations for the PAC while in their county offices and during work hours and that county resources, funds, and equipment may have been used as a part of an advocacy strategy for this measure. According to documents sent to my office, it appears that an email was sent to county employees and officials outlining a plan to advocate for the measure.

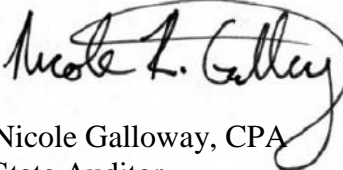
Upon the initial review of this matter as provided by Section 29.221, RSMo, I have determined that these allegations are credible. Given the number of county officials and employees potentially involved, an independent audit is necessary to determine whether and to what extent public resources were used to improperly advocate for this ballot measure. I am calling on the county commission to request an independent audit of these matters.

I ask that the county not destroy or dispose of any records relating to this ballot measure and any potential advocacy related to the measure until an independent audit has been conducted. Please retain all emails, recordings and minutes of meetings, and any other document or record relating to the county's involvement in this matter.

Under Section 50.057, RSMo, first class counties such as Greene County may request that the State Auditor conduct an audit. I ask that the Greene County Commission pass an ordinance or resolution requesting that my office investigate these serious allegations of the misuse of public resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Harper at 751.4213.

Sincerely,



Nicole L. Galloway

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State Auditor