



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harmon Releases Audit of Powell County Clerk's Fee Account

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2020 financial statement of Powell County Clerk Jackie Everman. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements and excess fees of the Powell County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comment:

The county clerk's office does not have adequate segregation of duties: This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as Finding 2019-001. The county clerk's office does not have adequate segregation of duties. The county clerk is responsible for receiving cash, preparing daily deposits, preparing and signing checks, posting to receipts and disbursements ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and also comparing the weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports to the ledgers. According to the county clerk the condition is a result of a limited budget, which restricted the number of employees she can hire or delegate duties to.

Inadequate segregation of duties allows for one person to have a significant role in processing and recording receipts and disbursements, which increases the risk of undetected misappropriation of

assets and inaccurate financial reporting occurring. A proper segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions, such as preparation of the quarterly reports or implementing compensating controls, when necessary because of a limited number of staff, is essential for providing protection from undetected errors occurring. Additionally, a proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

We recommend the same person not perform multiple accounting functions, and if the duties cannot be segregated, then compensating controls such as strong oversight over the employee's work should be provided and documented.

County Clerk's Response: Due to limited staff and such a small office, it is extremely difficult to segregate duties. Although, this is something we work very hard on and I do feel that it is getting better with each year. I am looking to hire another staff member to hopefully assist with this problem.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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