

**TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**AUDIT CHARTER
May 2026**

The Audit Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC), is established to assist the TOC in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding the Measure M2 Ordinance approved by the voters of Orange County. Specifically, the Subcommittee will have responsibilities in matters related to internal and independent outside audits of the Measure M2 programs, projects, and financial records.

In providing assistance to the TOC, the Subcommittee will assume the role of an audit committee as provided herein, and recommend action on all audit-related matters to the full TOC. Recognizing that the Finance and Administration Committee (Committee) of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) serves as OCTA's audit committee with audit oversight of Measure M2 projects, programs, and financial records, the role of the Subcommittee is to augment the Committee's audit oversight as it relates specifically to Measure M2 projects, programs, and financial records.

All members of the Subcommittee will participate in fulfilling these responsibilities. At least one member of the Subcommittee will have financial experience sufficient to provide guidance and assistance to other Subcommittee members on matters related to government accounting, auditing, budgeting, and finance.

In fulfilling its audit responsibilities, the Subcommittee will have prompt and unrestricted access to all relevant OCTA documents, records, and staff. Requests by the Subcommittee for financial or other resources sufficient to fulfill these responsibilities, and beyond that already existing in OCTA's adopted budget, will be directed, through the full TOC, to OCTA's Chair of the Board.

Members of the Subcommittee will be independent of OCTA, its contractors, consultants, and agents, in both fact and appearance, and will consult with the Chairman of the TOC concerning any circumstances which may compromise their ability to meet this standard. Members of the Subcommittee will comply with all applicable state and federal laws in the performance of their duties under this audit charter.

Responsibilities of the Subcommittee will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

Independent Financial Statements Audits

1. Review with management and the independent financial statement auditors:
 - a. The annual financial statements of the Orange County Local Transportation Authority and related footnotes, schedules, and unadjusted differences, including

the accounting principles used, and significant estimates or judgments made by management.

- b. Any other independent audit reports the Subcommittee believes may be relevant to the exercise of its duties.
2. Discuss with the independent financial statement auditors any difficulties encountered during the course of their work, disagreements with management, or restrictions or limitations placed upon them.
3. Assist OCTA in the selection, retention, or discharge of its independent auditor. This assistance may be provided through:
 - a. Participation on the independent auditor procurement selection panel.
 - b. In coordination with the full TOC, provide performance feedback regarding the independent auditor to OCTA's Board and/or Internal Audit Department (Internal Audit).
4. Inquire of the auditors as to their independence, their compliance with Government Auditing Standards, and applicable accounting and auditing guidance issued by the Government Accounting Standards Board, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and other standard-setting bodies.

Independent Outside Compliance Audit

1. Review with management and the independent outside auditors results of the annual compliance audit of the OCLTA, Measure M2 Ordinance No. 3, including any identified instances of non-compliance, or any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls identified through the audit.
2. Discuss with the independent outside auditors any difficulties encountered during the course of their work, disagreements with management, or restrictions or limitations placed upon them.
3. Assist OCTA in the selection, retention, or discharge of its independent outside compliance auditor. This assistance may be provided through:
 - Participation on the independent outside compliance auditor procurement selection panel.
 - In coordination with the full TOC, provide performance feedback regarding the independent outside compliance auditor to OCTA's Board and/or Internal Auditor.
4. Inquire of the auditors as to their independence, their compliance with Government Auditing Standards, and applicable accounting and auditing guidance issued by the Government Accounting Standards Board, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and other standard-setting bodies.

Agreed-Upon Procedures

1. Review with the independent auditors the results of agreed-upon procedures performed at the direction of the Subcommittee and/or the Board of OCTA.
2. Design procedures to provide assurance that Measure M2 funds are used in compliance with the ordinance, and expenditures are reported accurately.
3. Periodically evaluate the sufficiency and applicability of the procedures.
4. In coordination with the full TOC, provide management and OCTA's Board with recommendations based on the results of the procedures.
5. Review relevant city/county data and select a sample of jurisdictions for annual audit, to determine the level of compliance with the Measure M2 ordinance.

Triennial Performance Assessment

1. Participate in the development of a scope of work for the triennial performance assessment required by Measure M2.
2. Participate in the selection of the independent consultant.
3. Review the results of the triennial performance assessment, including management responses. Monitor the implementation of all recommendations.
4. In coordination with the full TOC, provide feedback to OCTA's Board on the performance of the independent consultant, the adequacy of management's responses, and/or the sufficiency of corrective action planned in response to audit recommendations.

Internal Audit and Internal Controls

1. Receive and review the annual Internal Audit plan and quarterly updates of audit activity.
2. Review internal audit reports that have Measure M2 implications, including management responses and planned corrective action.
3. Consider the effectiveness of OCTA's system of internal controls, including controls over financial reporting.
4. Inquire of Internal Audit as to restrictions or limitations placed upon it by management or the Board.
5. Review the results of Internal Audit's triennial quality assurance (or "peer") review and confirm that Internal Audit has been found independent as defined by Government Auditing Standards.
6. In coordination with the full TOC, provide OCTA's Board feedback or recommendations related to audit findings, internal controls, or the performance of the internal audit function.

Other

1. Review this Audit Charter at least annually to assess its adequacy and recommend changes.
2. Provide updates to the TOC on actions taken, communications by, or recommendations made by the Subcommittee.
3. Inquire annually of the Chairman of the Committee as to any concerns the Committee has regarding OCTA's internal controls, its internal audit function, its independent financial statement auditors and independent outside compliance auditors, Measure M2 projects, programs, financial records, or other matters, and report to the full TOC.