

I am going to paste the first section of a speech below. I'd like you to attempt to improve it for clarity, energy and humor.

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely! Please paste the section, and I'll enhance it for clarity, energy, and humor while maintaining your intended tone.

You said:

Good morning, everyone! It's always a pleasure to meet with the PSFOA. This event feels like our annual holiday party— complete with ugly sweaters! (Pat couldn't be here today) I'm not Pat McCarthy – but she does send her greetings and her apologies. We received an email from the White House inviting Pat to a holiday reception in Washington D.C. But you know we are serious about cybersecurity at the State Auditor's Office – so it took us a day or two to be sure that email was legit! It was an invitation for Pat, and as she said, her “plus-one.” Both Pat and her husband John are lifelong public servants. John is a retired Superior Court Judge and a Port of Tacoma Commissioner. Attending is a real honor for them, and they've promised to share some pictures with us. So, I want to say that Pat was looking forward to being here. But when the President calls – you go! (Relationships and introductions) But Pat wanted to be here. She values your work and the positive relationships we've built. In fact, Pat had planned to emphasize the importance of relationships. That's our word of the day, folks – relationships! Relationships are the glue of accountability—they help us navigate differences, find common ground and make our communities better. I've enjoyed the relationships I've built with many of you, and part of our goal today is re-introduce ourselves in new roles. As many of you know, Pat was just elected to her third term as State Auditor. We are glad she's sticking around! Her longtime friend and chief of staff, Keri Rooney, however has decided to retire. After 50 years in public service you deserve to retire! But that means some changes for us that you may want to know about. First of all, I will be serving as Pat's Deputy State Auditor. And my first assignment was filling in today – I guess that falls under “other duties as assigned!” And don't worry, we have an experienced, capable auditor ready to step up as our new Director of Local Audit – Tina Watkins! You may know Tina, she was a deputy director of local audit, primarily in the South Sound area. We have a few more familiar faces. Let me introduce them briefly. Wendy Choy, assistant director of local audits ... From Team Tacoma, Saundra Groshong... .. Judy Ly ... and Lorraine Nitta From Team South King County, Paul Griswold From Team Central King County, Joe Simmons And from Team North King County, Haji Adams These are seasoned pros, folks! They are here to build connections and make sure we're working together to improve accountability across the state. Let's talk about why this collaboration matters. Back in January, we discussed audit timeliness—a hot topic, thanks

to Standard & Poor's asking governments for more recent audits as part of their bond rating process. At the statewide WFOA convention in September, we featured an article in our newsletter highlighting the importance of timely audits. A big shoutout to Martin Chaw, Finance Director of North Bend, who contributed his insights! When S&P Global Ratings warned North Bend about a potential rating change unless it submitted an audited annual report by March, the city sprang into action. With Martin's leadership and our office's support, they completed their audit by June and restored their rating. (Are you here, Martin? Let's give him some applause!) That collaboration didn't just save a bond rating—it showcased how we achieve more together than we ever could alone. We've republished that article on our website this week, so be sure to check it out

ChatGPT said:

Here's a revised version of your speech, with added clarity, energy, and a dash of humor:

Good morning, everyone!

It's always a pleasure to meet with the PSFOA—our annual holiday party without the gift exchange! And yes, I see some holiday sweaters out there. Festive *and* brave.

Now, I know you were expecting Pat McCarthy. Unfortunately, she couldn't make it today, but she sends her warm greetings—and her apologies.

Here's what happened: Pat received an email inviting her to a White House holiday reception. Naturally, working in cybersecurity, we spent a full 48 hours wondering if it was a phishing scam. But don't worry—it was the real deal!

The invitation was for Pat and her “plus-one,” her husband John, a retired Superior Court Judge and Port of Tacoma Commissioner. They're both lifelong public servants, so this is a well-deserved honor. Pat has promised to share photos of their D.C. adventure, so stay tuned for a slideshow.

She truly wanted to be here, though. As Pat always says: “Relationships matter.” And that's our theme today, folks—relationships! They're the glue of accountability, the bridge over our differences, and the secret sauce that makes communities thrive.

I've built some great relationships with many of you over the years, and today is an opportunity to strengthen those ties—and maybe forge some new ones.

Now, for a quick update: Pat was just elected to her third term as State Auditor. Can we take a moment to celebrate her ongoing leadership?

Meanwhile, her longtime Chief of Staff, Keri Rooney, is retiring after *50 years* in public service. (Honestly, I didn't even know that was possible!) Keri, you've earned every second of this retirement.

With Keri's departure, we've made some adjustments: I'm now serving as Pat's Deputy State Auditor, and yes, my first assignment is this speech—proving once again that “other duties as assigned” covers just about everything!

We also have a new Director of Local Audit: Tina Watkins! Tina has been a deputy director of local audit, primarily in the South Sound area, so she's hitting the ground running.

Let me also introduce a few more of our team members:

- Wendy Choy, Assistant Director of Local Audits.
- From Team Tacoma: Saundra Groshong, Judy Ly, and Lorraine Nitta.
- From South King County: Paul Griswold.
- From Central King County: Joe Simmons.
- And from North King County: Haji Adams.

These are seasoned pros, here to build connections and improve accountability statewide. Give them a round of applause!

Now, let's talk collaboration. Back in January, we discussed audit timeliness—an increasingly hot topic thanks to Standard & Poor's asking for more up-to-date audits for bond ratings. At the statewide WFOA convention in September, we featured a newsletter article on the subject.

Special thanks to Martin Chaw, Finance Director of North Bend, for his insights. When S&P Global Ratings warned North Bend about a potential rating downgrade, Martin and his team sprang into action. With their hard work—and our office's support—they completed their audit by June, restoring their bond rating.

Martin, are you here today? Stand up and take a bow—you've earned it!

That collaboration didn't just save a bond rating; it showcased the power of working together. We've republished that story on our website, so check it out for some inspiration.

Does this revision capture the tone and goals you're aiming for? Let me know if you'd like further tweaks!

Please give me 10 new headline ideas for this small set of bullets, which I will paste into the next chat.

ChatGPT said:

Reasoned about headline generation for a couple of seconds

Sure, I'm ready when you are! Please go ahead and paste the bullet points, and I'll create 10 fresh headline ideas based on them.

You said:

Wanted – Ideas from local governments • Performance audits evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of government programs. • SAO is actively seeking audit topics that could lead to greater efficiency or other improvements for local governments

ChatGPT said:

Reasoned about audit topics for local governments for a couple of seconds

Here are 10 headline ideas based on your bullet points:



1. **Calling All Local Governments: Share Your Audit Innovation Ideas!**
2. **Local Government Spotlight: Submit Audit Topics to Boost Efficiency**
3. **Have a Game-Changing Audit Idea? SAO Wants to Hear From You!**
4. **Your Audit Ideas Can Transform Local Government Efficiency – Get Involved**
5. **Innovate Local Government: Propose Audit Topics for Better Program Performance**
6. **Performance Audits Reimagined: Local Governments, Share Your Best Ideas**
7. **Help Us Drive Efficiency: Submit Your Audit Ideas for Local Government Improvement**
8. **SAO Seeks Your Expertise: Local Governments, Contribute Innovative Audit Topics**
9. **Your Input Matters: Suggest Audit Ideas to Enhance Government Program Efficiency**
10. **Transforming Local Government: Call for Innovative Audit Topic Submissions**

Help me brainstorm names for an intramural office softball team. The team is from the State Auditor's Office.

ChatGPT said:

That sounds like a fun team! Here are some softball team name ideas with an auditing and accounting twist:

1. **The Audit Sox**
2. **Ledger Legends**
3. **The Balance Sheets**
4. **The Fiscal Sluggers**
5. **Going Concern**
6. **The Compliance Crushers**
7. **The Double-Entry Dodgers**
8. **The Unqualified Opinions**
9. **The Payroll Pounders**
10. **The Bean Counters**
11. **The Spreadsheet Slammers**
12. **The Budget Brawlers**
13. **The Oversight Outfielders**
14. **The Material Misstatements**
15. **The Depreciators**
16. **The Swinging Statements**
17. **The Forensic Phantoms**
18. **The Financial Force**
19. **The Error Eliminators**
20. **The Compliance Kings (or Queens!)**

Let me know if you want something funnier, more serious, or totally out of the box!  

Please improve the paragraph I will paste in for clarity.

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely, go ahead and paste the paragraph when you're ready.

You said:

This performance audit focuses on an emerging area of concern – adapting to the effects of a changing climate as we build renewable energy infrastructure. For example, it is practical to consider whether the site of a proposed wind farm is likely to experience more wildfires in the future. Such an assessment allows project designers to include protections against fires that will extend the life of the facility.

ChatGPT said:

Here's a clearer and more concise version of your paragraph:

This performance audit addresses a growing concern: how to adapt renewable energy infrastructure to the impacts of climate change. For instance, when planning a wind farm, it is important to assess whether the site is likely to face increased wildfire risk in the future. This kind of evaluation enables project designers to incorporate fire-resistant features that can help extend the facility's lifespan.

Let me know if you'd like it to sound more formal, technical, or geared toward a specific audience.

I am going to paste below the description of a government review in progress. I would like you to generate five questions a news reporter may have about the report when it is finished.

ChatGPT said:

Sounds good—go ahead and paste the description of the review, and I'll generate five thoughtful questions a reporter might ask once the report is released.

You said:

Community Engagement During Contaminated Site Cleanups Experts have established a clear link between living near places contaminated with hazardous materials and enduring long-term mental and physical health problems. Cleaning up such sites plays an important role in safeguarding the health of people in neighboring communities by reducing their exposure to hazardous materials. Nonetheless, cleanup activities may sometimes pose new risks as workers disturb contaminated soil or water. The people most likely to be affected by contaminated sites, and subsequent cleanup efforts, often belong to marginalized populations whose health and livelihoods may already be compromised. In recent years, Washington's civic leaders have taken steps to ensure those people directly affected by such sites are not only heard, but their views are also integrated before and during cleanups. To incorporate community concerns into its cleanup decisions, the Department of Ecology conducts outreach and gives members of the public opportunities to comment on proposed actions throughout the cleanup process. While certain aspects of community engagement are mandated by laws and regulations, such as the Model Toxics Control Act and the Resource Conservation and Cleanup Act, the extent to which such engagement consistently influences site cleanup decisions remains unclear. The 2021 Healthy Environment For All Act, along with objectives outlined in Ecology's strategic plans, underscores the significance of robust public involvement in agency decision-making to advance environmental justice and equity goals. However, residents affected by contaminated sites and proposed cleanup activities may face obstacles that hinder them from giving feedback on the cleanup process, such as language barriers or limited time to attend public comment meetings. Unless cleanup programs overcome these obstacles, they cannot ensure they have addressed the concerns of all community members in an equitable manner. Preliminary scope and objectives This audit will examine the collection and incorporation of public feedback for cleanup programs managed by Ecology; it specifically excludes nuclear waste cleanup programs. The audit will also consider the role of the Department of Health as it relates to Ecology's cleanup activities. It seeks to answer the following questions: 1. What engagement approaches does Ecology use when working with communities affected by contaminated site cleanup efforts? 2. Does Ecology tailor its

approach to meet the specific needs of each community? 3. Does Ecology consistently and equitably gather, consider and integrate feedback from affected communities into its cleanup efforts?

ChatGPT said:

Here are five questions a news reporter might ask once the final report is released:

1. **What were the main findings about how effectively Ecology gathers and incorporates public input during contaminated site cleanups?**
(This would help assess whether current engagement practices are meaningful or performative.)
2. **Did the audit uncover any significant disparities in how different communities—especially marginalized ones—were engaged or listened to during the cleanup process?**
(This probes environmental justice and equity impacts.)
3. **What specific barriers did the report identify that prevent community members from participating in the cleanup decision-making process?**
(This aims to spotlight systemic issues like language access, transportation, or digital divide.)
4. **Were there any standout examples—positive or negative—of community engagement practices that influenced cleanup decisions?**
(A human angle, highlighting real-world impact or failure.)
5. **What recommendations did the report make to improve community engagement, and has Ecology committed to implementing them?**
(This question points to accountability and next steps.)

Would you like questions tailored more toward public health, policy, or environmental justice angles?

You said:

Yes, give me five questions angled more toward environmental justice.

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely—here are five questions with a stronger environmental justice focus:

1. **How well is Ecology aligning its community engagement practices with the environmental justice goals outlined in the Healthy Environment for All Act?**
(This checks whether policy intentions are being realized on the ground.)

2. **Did the audit find that marginalized or historically overburdened communities were meaningfully included in cleanup decision-making, or were their voices sidelined?**

(Aims to uncover patterns of exclusion or inequity.)

3. **What steps, if any, has Ecology taken to reduce structural barriers—such as language, transportation, or time constraints—that disproportionately affect underserved communities’ ability to participate?**

(Targets systemic access issues related to justice.)

4. **Were any community feedback mechanisms shown to reinforce existing power imbalances, rather than empower impacted communities?**

(Looks critically at whether engagement efforts are actually equitable or just symbolic.)

5. **How does Ecology ensure that environmental cleanups do not further displace or harm vulnerable populations during remediation efforts?**

(Focuses on protecting communities during, not just after, cleanup.)

Let me know if you'd like these reworded for different formats—press releases, interviews, or briefing notes.

I will paste in a thank you note to a high school student who testified to a legislative committee. I would like you to improve it, ensuring it is supportive and positive.

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely! Go ahead and paste the thank you note, and I'll help you refine it to be warm, encouraging, and polished.

You said:

I wanted to thank you for your testimony earlier this month on my Office's performance audit of data security at a public college. It's not often we have members of the public testify on the issues raised by our work, to say nothing of a young student like yourself. It was impressive and I very much appreciate it. Not only did you clearly understand the importance of strong data security at our colleges and universities, you demonstrated that importance through your personal experience. As you said, colleges and universities collect quite a bit of very personal information about their applicants and students. It is their responsibility to protect that information. I often remark that government knows more about you than you may appreciate. Public agencies know your name your address your date of birth Social Security number and more. That is why strong security around the data we collect is so important. Beyond the issue at hand, I was impressed that you participated and did so confidently. In order to function properly, government needs engaged citizens like you to provide feedback and insight. By testifying in front of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, you've gained valuable experience that will benefit you, and may benefit your peers, friends, family and neighbors. Often, our communities are looking for people with the courage to speak on their behalf. I encourage you not only to remain involved in public affairs, but to consider public service. Our communities depend on involved people to ensure the water is clean, the streets are safe, health care is provided and so much more. Thank you again for your testimony, and best of luck to you in your future endeavors.

ChatGPT said:

Here's a revised version of your thank-you note—polished for tone, clarity, and encouragement, while keeping the warmth and sincerity of your original message:

Dear [Student's Name],

I want to sincerely thank you for your thoughtful and compelling testimony earlier this month regarding my Office's performance audit on data security at a public college. It's a rare and meaningful moment when members of the public, especially someone as young

as yourself, step forward to engage with our work in such a direct way. Your contribution was not only impressive—it was inspiring.

You demonstrated a clear understanding of why strong data security is essential at our colleges and universities, and you brought that point to life through your own personal experience. As you noted so effectively, institutions collect a great deal of sensitive information from students and applicants—names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and more. That information must be treated with the utmost care, and your testimony reminded everyone just how high the stakes are.

Beyond the substance of your remarks, I was equally struck by the confidence and poise with which you presented them. Government functions best when it hears from a wide range of voices, and your willingness to speak up before the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee showed real courage and civic-mindedness. That experience, I hope, is just the beginning of your engagement in public affairs—not only for your own benefit, but for the benefit of your peers, your community, and those who may one day look to you to speak on their behalf.

Please know how much your participation meant. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and I encourage you to stay involved—you clearly have a strong voice, and it deserves to be heard.

Warm regards,
[Your Name]

Would you like help tailoring this for a specific student or adding any personal touches based on their background or testimony?

You said:

New request. I'm going to post a note in the window below. I would like you to create a summary note in 75 words or less.

ChatGPT said:

Sounds good—go ahead and post the note when you're ready, and I'll craft a concise summary for you.

You said:

We've all heard the observation, "The only constant is change." It's attributed to the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus, and it is as true for us today as it was for him 2,500 years

ago. Rarely have we seen so much change, so quickly as we have over the past four years. Just from the perspective of public finance, we witnessed an abrupt shift in funding models to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, a subsequent tsunami of emergency federal support for government, followed by the end of those emergency measures and today's increased expenses in many areas. I know the Washington Association of School Business Officials is working to assist members as they navigate such constant change, no matter where they come from across the state, or the size of their district. And, as always, we at the Office of the Washington State Auditor are ready to assist, with a host of resources and information, including this special addition newsletter, just in time for the annual association conference. You will find articles on topics like improvements to our Financial Intelligence Tool, FIT, which is now mobile-friendly. And, later this year, school district data in FIT will be available to anyone interested in the metrics and finances of Washington's nearly 300 districts. You can also read about properly accounting for associated student body funds – a common area for audit issues. But beyond these pages, you can also talk to us! We will host a booth at the conference where you can ask State Auditor's Office staff questions, learn more about the training we offer, and check out your district's profile on FIT. We are presenting on several topics, as well, including cybersecurity and fighting fraud. As the State Auditor, I can tell you these issues are "trending." Cybersecurity has never been more important as threats to local governments increase, and we've seen an unsettling tendency for fraudsters to be more brazen in their schemes. Of course, we will be present to listen, as well. It's important to us to hear the concerns of school districts and learn more about the issues you face. We know many of your districts are facing fiscal challenges, and we continue to partner with WASBO and governments across the state to support strong financial stewardship. In this newsletter, you can read about the recent State Auditor's Stewardship Award we presented to the Oak Harbor School District. They have done a great job, and it was well-deserved. I know each of you are doing important work for your schools and your communities. Thank you! Pat

ChatGPT said:

Here's a 75-word summary of your note:

Change has been constant, especially in public finance over the past four years. The State Auditor's Office is here to support school business officials navigating these shifts, offering tools like the improved, mobile-friendly Financial Intelligence Tool (FIT) and guidance on key audit topics. Visit us at the WASBO conference to connect, ask questions, and attend sessions on cybersecurity and fraud. We're here to listen, assist, and recognize your efforts—like the recent award to Oak Harbor School District.

What are the key themes of public service recognition week?

ChatGPT said:

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), observed from May 4–10, 2025, is a nationwide celebration honoring the dedication and contributions of public servants across federal, state, local, and tribal governments. While there isn't a single unifying theme, several key messages and focus areas shape this year's observance: [National League of Cities+2Our Public Service+2](#)

1. Honoring Public Servants at All Levels

PSRW emphasizes recognizing the essential roles of public employees—from firefighters and educators to health workers and policy makers—who work tirelessly to support communities and uphold democratic values. This acknowledgment is particularly poignant amid challenges like natural disasters and public health crises, where public servants' efforts are most visible and impactful. [National League of Cities](#)

2. Workforce Agility and Future-Ready Leadership

This year's PSRW highlights the importance of adaptability, emotional intelligence, and inclusive leadership in the public sector. As the workforce evolves, there's a focus on developing skills that enable public servants to navigate change effectively and continue delivering quality services. [Cornerstone Talent](#)

3. Daily Wellbeing Themes

Incorporating Gallup's five elements of wellbeing, each day of PSRW is dedicated to a specific aspect: [CalHR Benefits Website+1](#)

- **Monday:** Career Wellbeing
- **Tuesday:** Social Wellbeing
- **Wednesday:** Physical Wellbeing
- **Thursday:** Community Wellbeing
- **Friday:** Financial Wellbeing [Terryberry+3CalHR Benefits Website+3Our Public Service+3](#)

These themes encourage activities and reflections that promote holistic wellbeing among public employees.

4. #ISupportFeds Campaign

The Partnership for Public Service's #ISupportFeds campaign invites individuals to share stories and messages of appreciation for federal employees. This initiative aims to humanize public servants and highlight their positive impact on communities. [Our Public Service+1](#)[Our Public Service+1](#)

5. Community Engagement and Recognition

PSRW encourages local events, awards, and public acknowledgments to celebrate public servants. In Washington State, for instance, the Office of Financial Management coordinates annual celebrations and employee awards to honor state employees' service. [Our Public Service+2](#)[Office of Human Resources+2](#)[Office of Financial Management](#)

6. Inspiring the Next Generation

There's a concerted effort to inspire young individuals to consider careers in public service. By showcasing the meaningful work and opportunities within the public sector, PSRW aims to attract new talent committed to serving the public good. [Cornerstone Talent](#)

For more information, resources, and ways to participate in PSRW 2025, visit the [Partnership for Public Service's PSRW page](#).[Our Public Service+1](#)

I am going to paste below an article on a study of bail vs pretrial services. I would like you to provide me with 5 snappy headlines I could use for the article.

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely! Please go ahead and paste the article, and I'll craft five snappy headline options for you.

You said:

Imagine you are walking home when the police arrest you because someone accused you of stealing a backpack. Despite denying you did the theft so and not having the backpack or any other items on you, they take you to jail. Bail is initially set at \$3,000, but your family cannot even afford the 10 percent, or \$300, typically asked of bail bondsmen to post bail for you. Prosecutors offer you plea deals several times, even saying they would release you if you plead guilty. However, you refuse. You know you did not steal the backpack and will not say you did. With repeated delays of your trial requested by prosecutors for your trial, they keep you remain in jail. Because other inmates keep trying to fight you, jail staff place you in solitary confinement for over two-thirds of your time in jail. Eventually, prosecutors lose touch with your accuser. , so a judge finally releases you and drops the charges against you -- after you have spent more than three years in jail. This is not a hypothetical scenario. It is what actually happened to Kalief Browder, who was arrested at the age of 16 in New York. , a 16-year-old boy, living in New York. He committed suicide just two years after his release; (Shalby, 2015) his mom found him hanging from his bedroom window. Although Browder's story is unique, the lengthy detention without trial is not. circumstances around his arrest and detention are not. Nearly 460,000 people – more than 80 percent of the United States jail population – are currently in jail pretrial, meaning they are awaiting trial and have not been convicted of a crime. The Washington Constitution and court rules presume most defendants should be released before their trials The Washington State Constitution assumes the release of anyone charged with a crime with only two exceptions: defendants charged with capital offenses punishable by death, where there is significant strong evidence of guilt, and defendants charged with crimes punishable by life in prison where they have shown a high likelihood for violence. In addition, cCourt rules presume the release of other defendants in noncapital cases without any conditions. However, in cases where defendants are deemed likely to commit a violent crime, intimidate witnesses or otherwise obstruct justice, judges may set conditions on their release to ensure the safety of the community, such as compliance with a curfew, restraining orders or house arrest. If the court finds that the person is likely to miss hearing dates, the judge may impose conditions to reasonably to ensure the defendant appears. For example, judges may require they wear electronic monitoring

devices or return to custody during specific hours. Another tool available to judges to ensure defendants return to court is the financial incentive of bail, meaning a defendant must pay money to be released from jail while going through their trial. If the defendant appears at all of all their court dates and follows other conditions of release, their bail money is returned. If they miss a court date or violate release conditions, they lose it. all of that money. Defendants remain in jail if they cannot afford bail Regardless of the crimes defendants are charged with committing, current bail practices result in those who cannot afford bail remaining in jail until their trials are completed, while defendants who qualify and can afford bail are released. A picture containing application AI-generated content may be incorrect. Defendants can also pay bail through a bail bondsman. This means they pay a bail bondsman a fee that is typically 10 percent to 15 percent of the total bail amount, and the bondsman pays the full amount of bail to the court. If the person appears for all court dates, the bail money is refunded to the bondsman; the defendant, however, is not refunded the fee portion, even if they are found innocent. However, sSome low-income defendants cannot afford even this small portion of bail and cannot employ the services of a bail bondsman. As a consequence, cities and counties hold a disproportionate number of low-income defendants awaiting trial. Some of these defendants may be in jail for minor crimes, such as first-time drug offenses or misdemeanors, and will remain there through the extent of the trial. In some cases, defendants may plead guilty to crimes in order to secure be released, even if they are innocent, rather than wait in jail for a court date. The various situations are illustrated in Exhibit 1. Pretrial defendants can be held in jail for days, months or even years without conviction and seemingly in direct opposition to the basic tenets of the our criminal justice system – the presumption of innocence and due process before punishment. However, pPretrial services programs offer judges and defendants alternatives to bail while providing additional supportssupport to help ensure defendants appear at trial and do not reoffend while released. These alternatives ensure that dDefendants are released based on their flight and reoffense risk rather than their ability to pay bail. The services offered to a defendant vary depending on the severity of the crime or risk to the community, and can range from court appearance reminders to electronic monitoring. Some jurisdictions also use risk assessment tools or interviews to measure the likelihood a defendant will appear in court or reoffend. These assessments gather important details about defendants, allowing judges to consider relevant factors when determining conditions of release. Jurisdictions across the country use pretrial services as an alternative to bail Several jurisdictions have successfully implemented pretrial programs and are consequently holding fewer pretrial defendants in jail. For example, New Jersey, which implemented pretrial services statewide and, reduced its jail population by 20 percent after one year (Grant, 2017). In Kentucky, more than 90 percent of defendants remained arrest-free and attended all court hearings, even as its pretrial release rate

increased from 50 percent to 66 percent, two years after implementing its pretrial program (Snead, 2019). In Washington, D.C., 80 percent of defendants are not required to pay bail, and almost 90 percent of released defendants remain arrest-free and appear at all scheduled court hearings (Pretrial Justice Institute, n.d.). In 2019, the Office of the Washington State Auditor reviewed whether the state could use pretrial services, as an alternative to bail, to better serve qualified defendants while maintaining public safety and controlling costs. Pretrial services can be expanded and save the state money. We found that on any given day, about 4,700 people held in Washington jails are candidates for pretrial services. We used the Public Safety Assessment tool developed by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to evaluate each person's risk of reoffending, committing a violent crime and failing to appear in court. To determine candidates for pretrial services, we removed those assessed as likely to commit a violent crime and those who could be denied bail as set out in the state constitution. We also eliminated those people held in jail for less than three days under the assumption they were either released without bail, had been able to afford bail, or were not charged with a crime. We also found that releasing these defendants and providing them pretrial services could save taxpayers between \$6 million and \$12 million a year. . On average, pretrial services are less expensive per person, per day than holding defendants in jail. The costs of providing pretrial services for five Washington counties we examined ranged from \$1.80 to \$7.26 per person, per day, depending on the number of participants and services offered. All programs included risk assessments for each participant and check-ins via phone or in person, while the most expensive program included additional services like bus tickets for defendants to get to court and electronic home monitoring. The average daily cost for pretrial services in these five counties is \$3.59 per person per day. This is about \$7.33 per person per day less than holding a defendant in jail. Some jurisdictions might be able to realize more substantial savings by reducing their average daily populations enough to reduce corrections staff. Some jails are divided into wings that are overseen separately by corrections officers. If a jail released enough inmates to close a wing, it could save more money through staff or shift reductions. Analysis of two Washington counties suggest pretrial services can be comparable to bail in maintaining public safety. Although releasing additional defendants through pretrial services could save taxpayers money, we also wanted to consider how this might affect public safety. We chose to look at two commonly used outcomes: reoffense rates and failure-to-appear rates. Reoffense rates measure how often defendants who are released awaiting trial commit new crimes. Failure-to-appear rates measure how often these defendants miss at least one court date. We reviewed two Washington counties that had implemented pretrial services programs and found that pretrial services can be effective and comparable to bail in maintaining public safety. We found defendants released on pretrial services had similar or lower reoffense and failure-to-appear rates than

defendants released on bail. Our Office is currently working on a second audit reviewing potential barriers to implementing pretrial services and any actions jurisdictions can take to increase their use of pretrial services. Bibliography Grant, Glenn. 2017. "Report to the Governor and the Legislature ONE YEAR NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY Acting Administrative Director of the Courts." <https://www.njcourts.gov/sites/default/files/2017cjrannual.pdf>. Pretrial Justice Institute, n.d. "The D.C. Pretrial Services Agency: Lessons from Five Decades of Innovation and Growth. Case Studies, Volume 2, Number 1. <https://www.psa.gov/sites/default/files/PJI-DCPSACaseStudy.pdf>. Shalby, Colleen. 2015. "Kalief Browder, Teen Who Awaited Trial for 3 Years at Rikers, Kills Himself." PBS NewsHour. June 8, 2015. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/new-yorker-profiled-kaleif-browder-kills-3-years-awaiting-trial-rikers-island>. Snead, Jason. 2019. "A Path Forward for Pretrial Justice Reform." The Heritage Foundation. 2019. <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/report/path-forward-pretrial-justice-reform>.

ChatGPT said:

Thanks for sharing the article! Here are **five snappy headline options** that capture the essence and urgency of the piece:

1. **"Freedom for a Fee: How Bail Punishes the Poor and Costs Us All"**
2. **"Justice on Hold: Why Pretrial Services Are a Smarter Alternative to Bail"**
3. **"Jailed Without Conviction: The Hidden Crisis of America's Bail System"**
4. **"Pay Up or Stay Locked Up: The Case for Expanding Pretrial Services"**
5. **"Kalief Browder's Legacy: Rethinking Bail, Saving Lives"**

Would you like variations with a more formal, data-driven tone or ones better suited for social media?

You said:

Yes, let's have five with a more formal tone.

ChatGPT said:

Certainly — here are five **formally toned headline options** suitable for policy briefs, research publications, or professional presentations:

1. **"Evaluating Bail and Pretrial Services: A Comparative Analysis of Cost, Equity, and Public Safety"**

2. **"Reducing Pretrial Detention Through Evidence-Based Alternatives: Findings from Washington State"**
3. **"The Fiscal and Social Impacts of Bail Versus Pretrial Services in the Criminal Justice System"**
4. **"Enhancing Pretrial Justice: The Case for Expanding Non-Monetary Release Options"**
5. **"Bail, Inequality, and Reform: A Data-Driven Approach to Pretrial Decision-Making"**

Would you like me to help tailor these to a specific audience, like legislators, advocacy groups, or academics?

You said:

Very good. Let's try it on a different article. I'll paste it below, and I'd like five compelling headline options

ChatGPT said:

Great — go ahead and paste the next article, and I'll craft five compelling headline options for it.

You said:

Use of Deadly Force Investigation Audits Criticisms of police use of deadly force investigations prompted Washington voters to reform state law In the course of their duties, police officers sometimes use enough force to cause people serious injury or death. Use of deadly force may be appropriate to protect other people or may be found to be criminally excessive. However, in many cases, officers from the same department as the one who used force are responsible for investigating whether the force was legally justified or criminal in nature. Across the United States, members of the public have criticized these investigations for their perceived lack of independence and transparency. To help address this issue, Washington voters passed Initiative 940 (I-940) in 2018, which required investigations into police use of deadly force be conducted by an agency completely independent of the one with the involved officer or officers. The goal was to improve their impartiality and independence by preventing people who were more likely to have a personal relationship with the involved officers from investigating the use of force. These requirements also aim to make investigations more transparent, credible and communicated timely to the public. Law enforcement agencies established regional investigation teams to allow investigators to respond quickly to use of deadly force

incidents while keeping the involved agency out of the investigation. Today, Washington has 19 regional teams across the state, which are made up of command staff, detectives, and other crime scene investigators from law enforcement agencies within the region. The Office of the Washington State Auditor is responsible for reviewing police use of deadly force investigations to make sure they follow rules for independent investigations. In 2021, the Washington State Legislature required the Office of the Washington State Auditor to audit all investigations of police use of deadly force that resulted in death or serious physical injury. Our Use of Deadly Force Investigations Audit Program assesses whether these investigations comply with the laws and rules for independent investigations set forth by I-940. It does so through an objective, independent review of case files after the investigation has been completed. These audits help give the public greater assurance that investigations meet legal requirements, and our reports add transparency for those concerned with the outcome of such investigations. Our audits have found common areas of noncompliance. The audit reports describe responding officers' and investigators' key actions that show whether they followed the laws and rules for independent investigations. Our audits have found that investigation teams and responding officers often follow the rules for independent investigations, however, they have also found common areas of noncompliance and areas where case file documentation could be improved.

Preserve the credibility of involved officer and witness interviews

One common area of noncompliance involved preserving the credibility of involved officer and witness statements, which is critical in investigations. State rules require involved police departments to prevent involved and witness officers from discussing the case with each other until after they provide statements to investigators. This requirement is also reflected in most department policies. Many officers said it is common practice for police department supervisors to give those orders. However, we found that incident reports detailing the use of force and immediate aftermath often do not describe whether supervisors gave the order. We also found that involved and witness officers sometimes remain near each other after uses of force, giving them opportunities to talk. We have recommended police departments give these directives and document that they did so in incident reports. Since interviews with involved officers often occur days or weeks after the use of force, it is important that the department takes steps to prevent officers and witnesses from discussing the case with each other. Conflict of interest assessments should be complete and timely.

Another common area of noncompliance

was that investigation team members did not always complete "conflict of interest" assessments. These assessments help determine if members have any connections with the officers being investigated that could affect their objectivity. In 16 of the 29 investigations we reviewed in 2024, teams did not have some of their members fill out an assessment form. Since neighboring police departments often investigate the use of force, it is important to check for relationships between members

and the involved officer to ensure an investigation is truly independent and credible. Ensure timely and informative public updates To increase the transparency of investigations and keep the public informed, state rules require investigation teams post weekly public updates on the investigation's progress even if there is no new information to report. In several instances, we found that while teams had issued multiple press releases, they often missed one or more weeks, usually at the beginning or the middle of an investigation. More concerning is the lack of information some teams provide in their press releases. Despite some investigations lasting multiple weeks, some teams only provide basic information about the use of force in the first release. In all subsequent releases, they simply say there are no new updates even when the investigation is completed and sent to the prosecutor for review. Secure investigations files from unauthorized access For audits in 2024, the most common area of noncompliance we found involved case file restrictions. Rules require independent investigation files be accessible only to investigators working on the case. Eighteen of the 29 investigations did not meet the requirement. Most teams use electronic records management systems that can limit access to specific people and create audit logs to show who accessed files. However, we found that in many cases department employees who were not involved in the investigations accessed the case files. Teams must restrict the case files to only participating investigators and appropriate support staff as soon as possible to prevent unauthorized access. Auditors can help make police use of force investigations more accountable and transparent Interactions with the police can have serious, even fatal, consequences. Our audit team has identified more than 200 cases that must be reviewed in our state. As Washington's recent initiative and statutory changes show, the demand for public accountability in these cases has grown. Auditors across the country can review police use of deadly force investigations to increase transparency and accountability. Completed investigation files are public record in the United States and should provide enough documentation for a thorough review. Although not all states have laws and rules like Washington that govern use of deadly force investigations, there are other standards to determine whether these investigations are conducted independently. This includes potential requirements from policies from nearby or similar police departments. Federal consent decrees, which are orders enforced by a federal court and are used to address unlawful policing practices and reform police departments, could also provide potential criteria. Independent audits offer the public greater assurance that investigations into police use of deadly force meet legal requirements, and, like all audits, give the audited agency valuable information for improving their own processes.

ChatGPT said:

Here are **five compelling headline options** for your article on audits of police use of deadly force investigations:

1. **"Holding the Line: How Independent Audits Are Strengthening Police Accountability"**
2. **"Watching the Watchmen: Audits Reveal Gaps in Deadly Force Investigations"**
3. **"Beyond the Badge: Ensuring Integrity in Police Use-of-Force Investigations"**
4. **"Audit Spotlight: Are Police Following the Rules When Investigating Themselves?"**
5. **"From Transparency to Trust: The Role of Independent Audits in Police Oversight"**

Would you like a set with a more formal or policy-focused tone as well?

You said:

Yes, more formal as well.

ChatGPT said:

Certainly — here are **five formally toned headline options** suitable for official reports, policy documents, or government briefings:

1. **"Assessing Compliance with Independent Use of Deadly Force Investigation Standards in Washington State"**
2. **"Strengthening Investigative Integrity: Audit Findings on Police Use of Deadly Force Reviews"**
3. **"Independent Oversight of Law Enforcement: An Evaluation of Deadly Force Investigations"**
4. **"Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in Use of Force Investigations Through State Audits"**
5. **"A Review of Procedural Compliance in Washington's Independent Deadly Force Investigations"**

Would you like any of these tailored to a specific audience or publication type?

please give me three fun variations on this sentence, which is introducing a new podcast:
"The Auditor's Office has a podcast called The Aud Pod, giving you and your closest friends a fun and informative way to glean insight into our Office."

ChatGPT said:

Here are three fun variations you could use:

1. **"Say hello to *The Aud Pod*—the official podcast of the Auditor's Office, where insight meets entertainment for you and your favorite people."**
2. **"Looking for a smart yet easy way to connect with the Auditor's Office? Tune into *The Aud Pod*, our podcast designed to inform, inspire, and maybe even make you smile."**
3. **"Gather your friends and your earbuds—*The Aud Pod* is here! It's the Auditor's Office podcast that mixes useful insights with a dose of fun."**

Want me to lean these more toward **professional-polished** or **casual-playful** in tone?

Our office, which audits local governments, is preparing a new program that will focus on explaining the fundamentals of audits to new local government financial professionals. These professionals will work with us throughout the year, for example, filing financial reports with our office in the spring, and undergoing an audit in the fall. Topics will include preventing issues before they happen, preparing for an audit, and the audit process. This program will include emails and a central website with resources on these topics. Our goal is that anyone can sign up for the program and any time of year, and over the course of the next 12 months, they will learn the fundamentals of interacting with our office. Could you please provide 10 possible names for this program?

ChatGPT said:

Got it — you're looking for names that are welcoming, professional, and signal that this is a **practical, year-round learning program** for local government financial staff. Here are 10 possible names:

1. **Audit Essentials** – Straightforward and professional, emphasizes fundamentals.
2. **The First-Year Guide** – Signals it's designed for newcomers to the process.
3. **Audit Ready** – Focuses on being prepared year-round.
4. **Foundations in Finance & Audit** – Broader framing that covers both financial reporting and audits.
5. **The Audit Compass** – Suggests guidance and direction through the process.
6. **Pathway to Audit Success** – Friendly, supportive framing.
7. **Audit Fundamentals 360** – Emphasizes a complete, full-cycle learning program.
8. **Year One with the Auditor** – Personalizes it for new professionals in their first cycle.
9. **Audit Navigator** – Suggests clear step-by-step support and orientation.
10. **The Readiness Program** – General but positive, signaling preparedness and confidence.

👉 Do you want these names to lean **more formal** (e.g., “Audit Essentials”) or **more approachable/friendly** (e.g., “The Audit Compass”)?