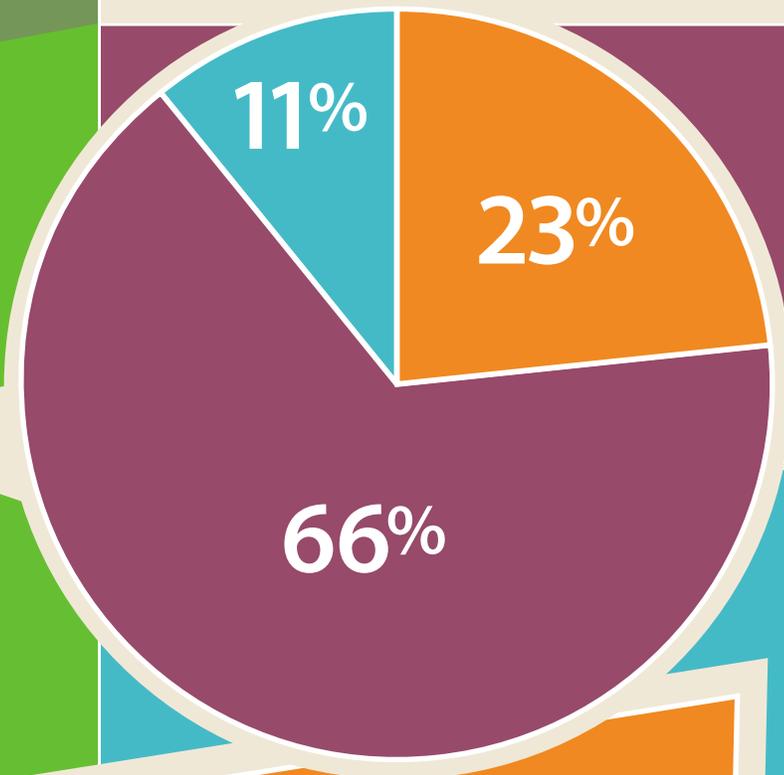


Where does SAO's money come from, and where does it go?

\$47.1 million total budget, 2018

Funding source:



\$31.1 million paid for by local governments for 2,567 audits.

This also pays for:

- fraud investigations
- citizen hotlines
- annual filing of financial data
- auditor Help Desk
- and more

\$5 million from the Legislature for 154 state agency audits.

This also pays for:

- whistleblower investigations
- the yearly audit of the financial statements for the State of Washington
- the yearly audit of federal money used or managed by the State

\$11 million from sales tax for 16 performance & cybersecurity audits.

This also pays for:

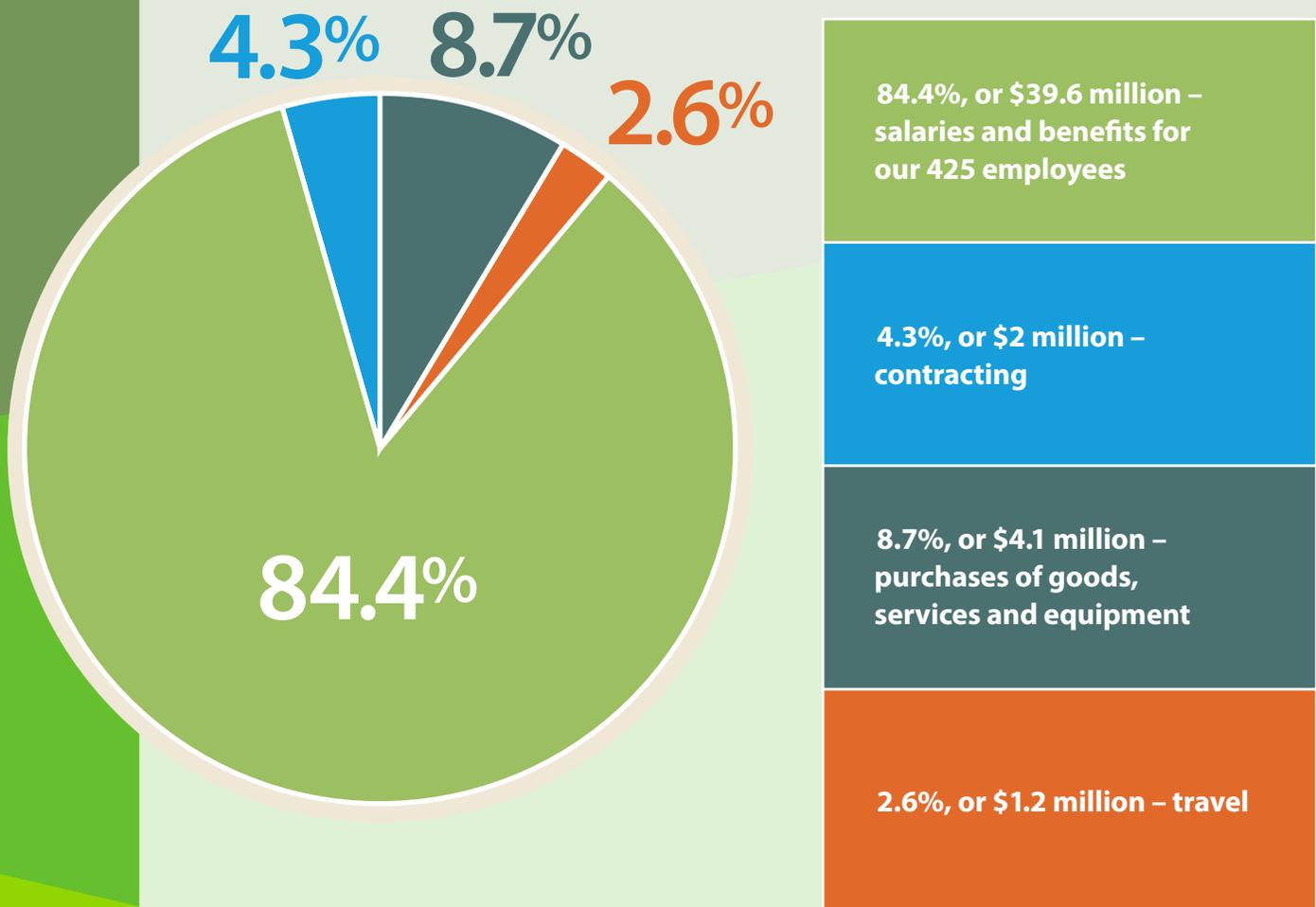
- the Center for Government Innovation
- the School Programs audit team

In 2005, voters approved Initiative 900, which gave SAO the authority to conduct performance audits and funded them via a dedicated portion (0.16%) of the existing state sales tax.

The Legislature amended I-900 to use some funding for other programs. SAO receives about two-thirds of the funding each biennium.

That translates to roughly \$23.5 million in the 2017-2019 biennium, or roughly \$11 million in 2018.

Where does the money go?



Who audits the auditor?

As auditors, we follow *Government Auditing Standards* set by the United States Government Accountability Office. Therefore, SAO receives an external peer review of our adherence to those standards every three years, performed by the National State Auditors Association. Separately, our finances are reviewed every two years by an independent public accountant under contract with the state Office of Financial Management. We post the reports from these reviews on our website.