

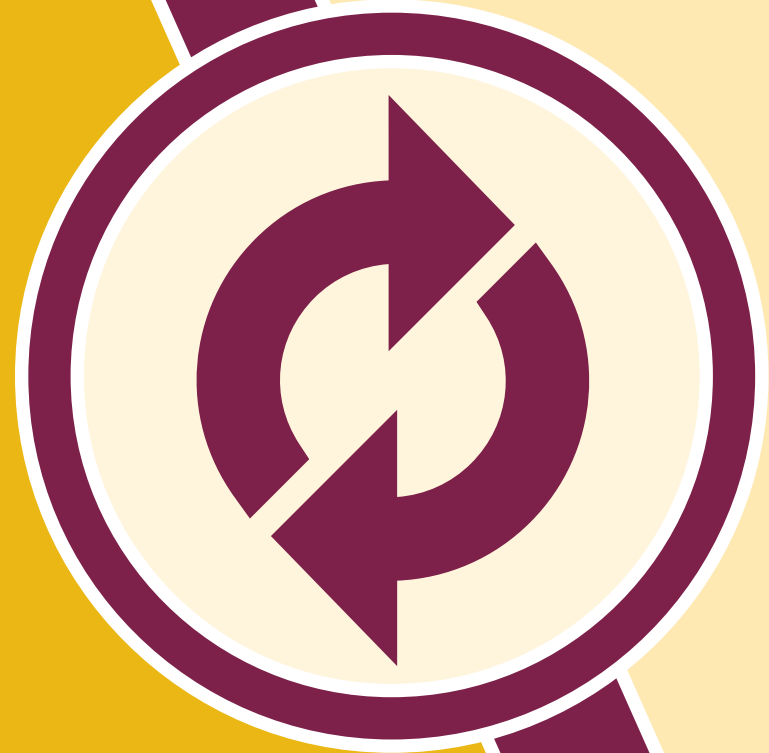
What's next for SAO in 2022 and beyond



SAO leads on data-sharing agreements, new data-sharing tool

After SAO's third-party vendor experienced a data breach, we worked closely with the Legislature to put additional protections in place for Washington's data. This included supporting Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5432, which called for all state and local agencies that request confidential data from another agency to provide for a written data-sharing agreement. SAO did not wait for the bill to go in effect in July 2021; we hit the ground running in June. As of mid-December, we have approximately 2,100 agreements in place and are finalizing 150 more.

In 2022, SAO will begin using a new, Microsoft-created tool to securely share large data files with our audit clients.



What's next for SAO in 2022 and beyond *(continued)*



First-in-the-nation work on law enforcement use of deadly force

SAO has new work to do after the 2021 Legislative Session. Under [E2SHB 1089](#), our Office will complete a process-compliance audit and a review of investigations into law enforcement's use of deadly force that happened after January 6, 2020. We are the first public auditors in the United States to conduct this type of examination. Our final reports will explain what we found, elaborate on causes of noncompliance, and may provide recommendations to the law enforcement agency, the prosecuting attorney and others.

What's next for SAO in 2022 and beyond *(continued)*



New audits of public utilities' compliance with Clean Energy Transformation Act

We will begin auditing consumer-owned utilities' compliance with the [Clean Energy Transformation Act \(CETA\)](#). The Act places new requirements on electric utilities to transition over time to clean energy resources to supply their retail customers. We will audit 41 electric utilities: 24 public utilities, 16 municipal utilities and one irrigation district. Learn more here: <https://sao.wa.gov/does-your-government-sell-electricity-if-so-new-audit-engagements-are-coming-your-way/>



What's next for SAO in 2022 and beyond *(continued)*



Performance audit of rejected ballots – demographic differences, best practices and more

Washington's elections, conducted by mail, are carried out by counties with support and guidance from the Secretary of State's Office. This audit was prompted by legislative concerns about the rate at which mail-in ballots are rejected. It will include a detailed statistical analysis of ballots from the 2020 general election to determine if rejection rates differ for certain demographic groups, as well as testing to determine whether ballots were appropriately rejected. The audit will also include an examination of the policies and practices used in a sample of 10 counties to determine if they follow state law and leading practices, and if there are any differences in those practices that might help explain how rejection rates vary. Finally, the audit will look to other states to identify innovative practices Washington counties could use to reduce the number of rejected ballots.



What's next for SAO in 2022 and beyond *(continued)*



No-cost, CPE-eligible training on cash receipting

The Center for Government Innovation will soon offer SAO's first online, on-demand course on cash-handling controls. With fraud on the rise at the local government level, this training will follow an actual fraud case throughout the session, while covering important best practices for internal controls and how to prevent cash receipting fraud. Local government employees will be able to attend on their own schedule and follow the course at their pace, without having to travel to a conference. Plus they'll receive Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit.

