

An Agency's Guide to the JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT & REVIEW COMMITTEE



September 2023



**NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED**

Winner of NCSL Excellence in Research Methods, Certificate of Impact, and Notable Document awards.

JLARC: THE LEGISLATURE'S AUDITOR

We answer the Legislature's questions

The Legislature sets policy – JLARC evaluates how well programs deliver on it.

We are the Legislature's performance auditors

JLARC has been providing this service since 1973.

JLARC and the position of Legislative Auditor are established in statute (Chapter 44.28 RCW).

We give the Legislature accurate and unbiased answers to its questions

Answers are prepared independently by nonpartisan staff, in accordance with professional audit standards.

The Committee, with 8 Senators and 8 Representatives evenly split between the parties, helps ensure this independence.

QUESTIONS RECENTLY ASKED OF JLARC



Tax preferences

Has a preference for housing providers incentivized the construction of new units of farmworker housing?



State government

Does the Washington State Patrol replace pursuit vehicle at the optimal time to minimize costs?



Health services

Does the inspection program for ambulatory surgical facilities meet goals for inspection frequency and ensure patient safety?



Natural resources

Are the Department of Natural Resources' wildfire prevention and preparation activities consistent with science and best practices?



Economic development

Did the Local Government Infrastructure Financing Tool create more jobs?



Public safety

Do schools, school districts, and first responders use the state's first responder mapping system to support emergency response activities?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JLARC'S WORK



Visit our website at www.leg.wa.gov/jlarc to view:

- The Legislative Auditor's Annual Report
- JLARC's Work Plan
- All JLARC Studies

CONTACT

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STUDY PROCESS

- Study Mandate
Budget, legislation, committee direction
- Proposed Study Questions
- Legislative Auditor's Preliminary Report
- Legislative Auditor's Proposed Final Report
Agency response included
- Final Report
Option to append committee comment
- ➔ ● Committee votes to distribute completed audit

JLARC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SENATE

Bob Hasegawa
Liz Lovelett
Mark Mullet, *Chair*
Ann Rivers

Jesse Salomon
Shelly Short
Keith Wagoner
Lynda Wilson, *Secretary*

HOUSE

Emily Alvarado
Stephanie Barnard
April Berg
Jake Fey

Keith Goehner
Stephanie McClintock
Ed Orcutt, *Vice Chair*
Gerry Pollet, *Assistant Secretary*

DATA ACCESS AND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 2021

Statute gives JLARC staff broad authority to access data and documents

RCW 44.28.110 requires agencies to provide JLARC staff with access to any data or documents requested as part of the study. Agency staff must share information, even if it may be considered confidential.

JLARC staff may access:

“ any confidential records needed to discharge the Joint Committee’s performance audit duties. ”

- (RCW 44.28.110(2))

JLARC staff will maintain the confidentiality of non-public data

- JLARC’s access to records does not change their confidential nature.
- As required by RCW 44.28.110(2), JLARC staff will respect any existing confidentiality requirements.
- Agencies should tell JLARC staff when such requirements exist.
- JLARC staff do not provide access to confidential data to members of the Legislature, including members serving on JLARC.

What about the Institutional Review Board?

JLARC is exempt from the requirements of the Board (RCW 42.48.060).

What about federal requirements, such as Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act?

We recognize the constraints of, and have experience working with, data that is subject to both laws. We will work with you to ensure that federal requirements are met.

The Legislature has staff and technology that ensure data security

RCW 43.105.215 requires that the Legislature have an information technology security program that is comparable to the one created by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for the Executive Branch.

The Legislature has experts who ensure JLARC meets or exceeds these requirements. They have established controls so that data is protected and remains confidential. This includes data classified as Category 3 or 4 under OCIO policy or other regulations or laws. The security program includes encryption, unique user accounts, multifactor authentication, access management, and monitoring. The Legislature maintains cybersecurity insurance and has passed each of its security audits.

More information is available upon request.

You will have the opportunity to review the data in the report before its release

JLARC provides every audited agency time to review a report for accuracy before its public release. You will be able to see how data is interpreted and presented and ensure that no confidential data is released.

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Should you have any questions, please contact Legislative Auditor Eric Thomas or the project lead. If you have specific questions about the security controls in place for data, we can direct you to the appropriate staff.