

Thank you, Chairman Harris, Chairman Struzzi and members of the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to present the Department of the Auditor General's 2025-26 fiscal year budget request.

As I begin my second term, I remain dedicated to serving Pennsylvania taxpayers who expect accountability, integrity, public service and transparency from their state government and their state officials.

In continuing to do this work, I would like to thank this committee for your continued belief in our vision for the Department of the Auditor General.

Since I have been in office you have helped us restore the Department's budget, and it has improved our work significantly.

We have held ourselves accountable the same way we hold others accountable.

We also are transparent; the same way we recommend others be transparent.

Our department has become more efficient and productive by utilizing auditing and accounting best practices and introducing risk-based auditing procedures such as "Limited Procedure Engagements" and "Reduced Period Engagements" and obtaining auditing software making our work papers 100% paperless.

In my first term we produced approximately 14,000 audits for an average of 3,500 audits per year.

But our work is far from over.

We are seeking a modest 5% increase to our budget, which will help us honor employee contractual obligations and allow us to continue our mission.

I look forward to working together with you, your fellow members, and your respective staffs during this important process.

Thank you again for your partnership and please know my door is always open.