



New Jersey and GASB Statement No. 77

Source: Scott Klinger, Good Jobs First

scott@goodjobsfirst.org ~ 202-232-1616 x 212

Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure?

State Comptroller Phil Degnan (Appointed by Governor, Oct. 2015)

State [statutes](#) give the state comptroller responsibility for auditing local governments within New Jersey. The state comptroller is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature to a six-year term.

The State's Legislative Auditor is responsible for auditing the state, its agencies, and school districts (which derive more than 80 percent of their revenue from state aid).

Who commented on the Exposure Draft from New Jersey?

- New Jersey Policy Perspective joined two other state fiscal policy groups and a small business organization in [calling for](#) inclusion of personal income tax diversion-based abatements in GASB 77.
- New Jersey Policy Perspective joined another state fiscal policy group and a state-based teachers union in [calling for](#) inclusion of TIF diversions in GASB 77.
- The South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education submitted as a [comment](#) a board resolution calling on GASB to include PILOTs as a required disclosure and to disclose the names of subsidy recipients.
- Rutgers Professor Julia Sass Rubin joined 47 others distinguished academics in a [comments](#) broadly supporting GASB 77.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with GAAP and therefore GASB Statements?

According to a GASB's [State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting](#) (published March 2008) all of the state's 549 school districts are required to comply with GAAP.

However, none of New Jersey's 21 counties or 566 municipalities are required by state law to use GAAP accounting, though most large cities do, presumably to satisfy federal revenue sharing requirements, credit ratings agencies and obtain the lowest possible interest rates on bond borrowings

Which state office collects CAFRS from counties/cities/school districts?

The State Comptroller collects municipal and county CAFRs and annual reports for the purpose of auditing them, as provided by state law (N.J.S.A. 52:15C-7). The State Comptroller does not post CAFRs online.

The state's Department of Education gathers and [posts](#) CAFRs from New Jersey's school districts.

Does the state government or do academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB or completing CAFRs?

The state's [Division of Local Government Services](#) in the Department of Community Affairs is tasked with disseminating information pertaining to audit standards and new issues that could include GASB 77.

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district?

New Jersey prides itself on having some of the [strongest local government oversight laws](#) (developed in the 1930s) in the nation. New Jersey is one of 22 states to operate programs to [monitor fiscal stress](#) among local governments, though it has not adopted rules for intervention.

Which state office is responsible for completing state's CAFR?

The state Treasurer completes the state's CAFR.

When was most recent CAFR filed?

New Jersey's fiscal year ends on June 30th. Its most recent [CAFR](#) was published on March 15, 2017.

Based on what we know about past filing behavior, when will GASB 77 data start appearing in New Jersey?

- **State government:** Mid-March 2018
- **Largest cities:**
 - Newark: Has yet to publish financials for FY 2016; GASB 77 date unknown
 - [Jersey City](#): Late September 2017
 - [Paterson](#): early-June 2018
- **Largest counties:**
 - [Bergen County](#): no CAFR or audited financial statement posted online
 - Middlesex County: no CAFR posted online
 - Essex County: no CAFR posted online
- **Largest School Districts**
 - [Newark](#): late January 2018
 - [Jersey City](#): early December 2017

For more information on GASB 77, visit: <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb>

Updated: September 6, 2017