Rhode Island and GASB Statement No. 77

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Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure? Auditor General Dennis Hoyle. The Office of the Auditor General serves as a liaison between the State and municipalities on financial and accounting matters. It is responsible for (1) reviewing the annual audited financial statements of the cities and towns, (2) prescribing and supervising their application of uniform accounting principles, procedures and reporting standards, and (3) making determinations of whether emergency situations permit a municipality to exceed the statutory cap on annual property tax levy increases.

Who commented on the Exposure Draft from Rhode Island? None.

Does the state’s most recent CAFR include GASB 77 disclosure? Yes.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with GAAP and therefore GASB Statements? According to GASB’s research brief titled “State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting” (2008), all of Rhode Island’s 39 municipalities and 4 school districts are required by state auditor to use GAAP accounting. Rhode Island has no counties.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts reported on GASB 77 disclosures in 2018? 18 of 39 sampled counties/municipalities and 0 of 3 sampled school districts.

Is there a state office that collects CAFRS from counties/cities/school districts? The Division of Municipal Finance in the Department of Revenue gathers and posts some audited financial statements of municipalities in the state.
Does the state government or do academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB or completing CAFRs? The Auditor General’s Office publishes extensive materials to assist local governments with their financial reporting, including specific information on previous GASB statements. The Auditor General’s Office also publishes Muni-news periodically. The October 2016 edition published a modest note about GASB 77.

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district? Rhode Island is one of 22 states to operate programs to monitor fiscal stress among local governments. The Division of Municipal Finance in the Department of Revenue tracks local governments and their agencies experiencing fiscal stress under the state’s Fiscal Stability Act.

Which state office is responsible for completing state’s CAFR? Rhode Island Department of Administration, Office of Accounts and Control.

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

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