



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: January 8, 2014

### **Audit Uncovers Numerous Examples of Management Problems in Wayne County Government**

Wayne County government officials need to take a number of steps to correct poor accounting and bookkeeping practices and to address management issues, an audit by the Comptroller's office has revealed.

The audit, which was released today, reports 30 findings – that is, areas identified as needing improvement. There were 22 findings in last year's audit.

The Wayne County Executive's Office was responsible for 13 of this year's findings. These findings dealt with an array of issues, including deficiencies in the accounting records for the Wayne County Board of Public Utilities, expenditures being misclassified in accounting records, a cash overdraft in the community development/industrial park fund and loans made without proper documentation.

The Office of the Director of Schools was responsible for eight findings. These included unauthorized payments to employees, questionable spending of state and federal grants and violations of state law in school bus purchases.

"We believe Wayne County has an unacceptably high number of findings and we hope that the government officials there will take steps to address the issues our auditors have identified," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Even seemingly small bookkeeping issues can create an environment where fraud, waste or abuse of taxpayer dollars is more likely. We certainly don't want to see that happen in Wayne County."

The audit, which was released today, can be found online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

-30-

Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (615) 253-2668 or [blake.fontenay@tn.gov](mailto:blake.fontenay@tn.gov)

[Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov)  
State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: (615) 741-2501  
Email: [comptroller.web@cot.tn.gov](mailto:comptroller.web@cot.tn.gov)