

Candidate for State Auditor and Inspector

Steve Burrage

Party: Democrat

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Vocation: State Auditor and Inspector

Question #1: List your academic and professional credentials, specific accomplishments and volunteer activities. State why you are running and what qualifies you for this office. (100 words total)

I graduated from OU with a degree in accounting. I am a CPA with a permit to practice and take my yearly required continuing education classes. I have over 30yrs of accounting and financial experience. I am running so that I can remain your State Auditor and continue using my over 30yrs of business experience and practices to make the office as effective and efficient as possible. My top priority as State Auditor is protecting your hard-earned tax dollars and making sure they are being spent properly, free from all waste, fraud, and abuse.

Question #2: What do you see as the most important issues facing your office and staff? (200 words or less)

One of the most important issues in my office is having a highly qualified and professional staff. Since my appointment as State Auditor in July 2008, I now only have qualified professionals working in the office. I by dissolving non-essential administrative staff positions I was able to cut the administrative overhead, by 1.2 million dollars. In turn I have been able to hire more Auditors, who are essential to providing a quality product to the taxpayers. Another important issue is providing quality audits. As State Auditor, I have been providing quality audits that make sure your tax dollars are being spent properly and free from all waste, fraud, and abuse. When waste, fraud, or abuse is found, the audits help provide the evidence needed to prosecute and punish those who wronged the tax payers. These quality audits also provide the leadership of each agency with suggestions on how to improve their accounting and spending practices to better protect the taxpayer dollars. As State Auditor, I have also made it a priority to publish the audit reports on my office's website so the taxpayers can see the findings and results and better understand how their tax dollars are being spent and protected.