



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harmon Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement of Webster County Clerk's Fee Account

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the 2018 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Webster County Clerk Valerie Newell. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Webster County Clerk applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2018 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Webster County Clerk, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

The following exception was identified during the AUP engagement:

- **The county clerk's fourth quarter financial statement did not agree to the county clerk's disbursements ledgers. Disbursements varied by \$72,412.**

County Clerk's Response: The variance was a result of re-issuing check #'s 4231 & 3960 in the amounts of \$41,111.59 & \$33,467.57 because Dept. of Revenue never cashed original checks dated 7/9/18 & 10/4/17. After months of attempts by letters, phone calls, & emails by the County

Clerk, stop payments were issued & checks were re-issued. No additional disbursements were made, only a re-issuance of checks which were never cashed by DOR.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The agreed-upon procedures report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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