

COMPTROLLER'S REVIEW OF STATE CONTRACTS

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is the chief financial officer of New York State and the watchdog for the public's money. As part of his responsibility, the Comptroller reviews and approves contracts for all State agencies and a few public authorities. Last fiscal year, the Office of the State Comptroller reviewed more than 38,000 contract transactions valued at \$37 billion.

The Comptroller's independent oversight makes sure that the process is open, complies with the law and ensures that taxpayers get the best value for their tax dollars. The Comptroller also wants to promote a level playing field for all businesses competing for State business and an understanding of how to do business with the State.

Open Book New York Contracts Search

State Comptroller DiNapoli believes New Yorkers should know where their tax dollars are going. Open Book New York provides the public with access to more than 60,000 active contracts that State agencies have with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and other governmental entities. Data is updated nightly with newly approved contracts and contract amendments, as well as new contracts that do not require approval by the Comptroller. State agencies or vendors who seek information on the status of their pending State contracts should enroll in the [VendRep system](#).

Comptroller's State Contract Review Process

Under Section 112 of the State Finance Law, the Comptroller's Bureau of Contracts reviews and approves contracts for State agencies that exceed the applicable threshold for review, generally \$50,000. If a contract is below the applicable threshold, a State agency does not need the Comptroller's preapproval, but it must follow a reasonable process in awarding the contract to ensure that it gets the best price possible.

Public authorities generally do not follow the same contracting rules or approval processes that State agencies are required to undertake. Very few public authorities are required to submit their contracts to the Office of the State Comptroller for review and approval. The three largest authorities currently submitting contracts to the Office of the State Comptroller for approval are the Thruway Authority, the Canal Corporation and the Long Island Power Authority.

The Comptroller's contract review process adheres to rigorous standards and legal requirements. The staff has a wide range of expertise and examines contracts for construction projects, grants, consultants, commodities, concessions, professional services, intergovernmental agreements, leases, and land purchases and sales. As part of its examination, the staff ensures that:

- The method used to select the contractor complies with applicable statutory, regulatory and policy requirements;
- The selection of the contractor was performed in a fair manner;
- The cost is reasonable;
- The contract is sufficiently funded;
- The contract language is reasonable;
- Any errors or unreasonable transactions are corrected before a financial obligation is incurred or an expenditure made;
- The agency has performed due diligence to ensure the contractor, a company or individual, is responsible, has the legal authority to do business in New York, has provided reasonable service in the past and satisfies other requirements.

The Office of the State Comptroller is also responsible for auditing all bills, including payments for contracts, for the State prior to payment. In total, nearly 82,000 State payments are made daily. Last fiscal year, more than 20 million payments totaling \$87.3 billion were made. Through this payment audit process, the Office of the State Comptroller stopped or recovered hundreds of millions in improper payments and fraud.