



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022

CONTACT: info@blahaforauditor.org

**Ryan Wilson Continues to Misrepresent Office of the State Auditor,
Misleading Voters**

“Ryan Wilson is misleading voters about the Office of the State Auditor again. Wilson also revealed today that he’s more interested in chasing headlines than getting results” - State Auditor Julie Blaha

ST. PAUL, Minn. — State Auditor Julie Blaha responded to Ryan Wilson’s statement that misrepresents the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) and misleads voters.

A press statement released Wednesday issued by the Wilson for Auditor campaign contained unfounded accusations that show a clear difference between Ryan Wilson and Auditor Blaha: Wilson will promote himself, while Blaha will continue to protect Minnesota taxpayers.

“Ryan Wilson is misleading voters about the Office of the State Auditor again,” Auditor Blaha said. “Wilson also revealed today that he’s more interested in chasing headlines than getting results.”

Regarding the OSA’s Federally Assisted Programs Subrecipients 2020 Year End report and its role in the Feeding Our Future allegations, by Wilson’s own admission, at the point the report he cites was complete, “the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) had expressed concerns with Feeding Our Future and was in litigation with the non-profit organization.” MDE was already using the information on the failure to file timely audits as part of their rationale to discontinue funding the organization. The OSA report reinforced their point.

The issues surrounding the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program he cites are firmly under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA), not the OSA. Though counties

may be involved in administering some functions of that program, the concerns were centered around the state run and state funded portion of the program. [State law and the State Constitution are clear that those fall under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Auditor.](#) To duplicate their work would be a waste of taxpayer dollars and outside of the limits set on the office by the people of Minnesota.

While these fundamental misunderstandings of the office point to Wilson's lack of qualifications to be state auditor, his focus on chasing headlines is even more dangerous.

First, his characterization of "silence" as merely the absence of being in the news, shows he would be a state auditor who pursues headlines for self promotion at the expense of taxpayers.

"The issues he raises were already receiving significant examination. To repeat another entity's work just to get in on a headline is a waste of time and taxpayer money," Auditor Blaha said.

Second, while items are under investigation, a state auditor opining on the topic can jeopardize the integrity of the investigation.

["There are laws that require the state auditor to keep information confidential while an investigation is open.](#) Those laws exist for good reason: When an auditor speaks too soon, they can get a headline, but lose a conviction," Auditor Blaha said.

Third, when an auditor speculates on an issue before it has been thoroughly investigated, it can cause rumors and conspiracies.

"Incomplete or inaccurate speculation is nearly impossible to retract," Auditor Blaha said. "It's vital that the state auditor has the discipline to hold their tongue until investigations are complete."

Minnesotans deserve a state auditor that is entirely focused on using oversight to protect their freedom to make their own decisions. Not a politician who creates division by seeking to use the office to push his own political agendas.

###

Stay up-to-date on State Auditor Julie Blaha's re-election campaign by following @BlahaForAuditor on Facebook and Twitter, and by visiting www.BlahaForAuditor.org.