



HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of the County Auditor

October 25, 2023

Report Highlights

CliftonLarsonAllen has issued an unmodified (clean) audit opinion on the County's FY2023 financial statements.

The County's four component units each received unmodified audit opinions.

County Council Members and County Executive Cassilly:

In accordance with Section 213(b) of the Harford County Charter, an audit of the County's financial statements as of June 30, 2023 has been completed. The audit was performed by the independent public accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA).

CliftonLarsonAllen has issued an unmodified opinion on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This means that they believe the financial report, as prepared by the County's Treasurer, is free from material misstatement and presents the County's financial results and position fairly. CLA's audit opinion is on page B1 of the ACFR and attached to this letter.

I have reviewed the ACFR and CLA's audit opinion. I feel comfortable that the opinion is based on sound audit practices. The ACFR includes the financial results of the component units: Harford County Public Schools; Harford Center, Inc.; Harford Community College and Harford County Public Library. I have additionally reviewed the Financial Statements for the component units; each received an unmodified report from their independent auditors.

Management's Discussion and Analysis in the ACFR is very thorough and provides detailed analysis of the County's financial position. As a result, I do not have any additional explanatory comments at this time. I am available to respond to any questions you have regarding the attached report.

Sincerely,

Chrystal Brooks

CPA, CGFM, CIA, CISA, CGAP, CRMA

County Auditor

cc: Mr. Robert Sandlass, Treasurer
Ms. Mylia Dixon, Council Administrator



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Honorable Members of the County Council
Harford County, Maryland

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Harford County, Maryland (the County), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit report and the report of the other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General, Highways, and Agricultural Land Preservation funds for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of Harford County Public Library and the Harford Center, Inc., which represent approximately 2 percent and 3 percent of the total assets and deferred outflows and revenues of the aggregately discretely presented component units as of June 30, 2023. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Harford County Public Library and the Harford Center, Inc., is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The financial statements of the Harford Center, Inc. were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

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Emphasis of Matter

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 5H to the financial statements, effective July 1, 2022, the County adopted new accounting guidance for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA). The guidance requires entities to recognize a right-to-use subscription asset and corresponding SBITA liability for all SBITAs with terms greater than twelve months. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We and other auditors have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual fund statements and budgetary comparison schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS by us and other auditors. In our opinion, the accompanying combining and individual fund statements and budgetary comparison schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

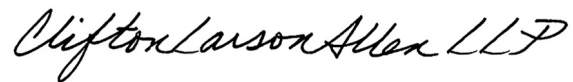
In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If,

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based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 11, 2023 on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland
October 11, 2023