

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

2025-2026 End of Session Report

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Chair

Senator
Christopher Cabaldon
Vice Chair

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- Carl DeMaio
- Gregg Hart
- Josh Hoover
- Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Rhodesia Ransom
- Mike Fong

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- Angelique Ashby
- Josh Becker
- Sabrina Cervantes
- Dave Cortese
- Megan Dahle
- Suzette Martinez Valladares

STAFF:

Wesley Opp, *Chief Consultant*
Tram Truong, *Principal Consultant*
Sheriall Smith-Brandon, *Committee Secretary*

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

2025 - 2026 END OF SESSION REPORT

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

2025-2026 Legislative Session

INTRODUCTION

With a goal of improving government performance, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (Audit Committee) independently and through the work of the California State Auditor's Office (Auditor's Office) oversees the operations and finances of state and local government and publicly created entities. The Audit Committee reviews and takes action on audit requests, which may be submitted to the Committee by any Member of the Legislature as well as the California State Auditor. The Audit Committee also monitors government operations through oversight hearings.

The Audit Committee was established through the Legislature's rulemaking authority under the California Constitution, Government Code Section 10501, and the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly, Rule 37.3. Duties and responsibilities in the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly apply to the Audit Committee as well as all powers conferred upon committees by Article IV, Section 11 of the California Constitution.

The Audit Committee is a 14-member committee consisting of seven Assembly Members and seven Senators. The Chair of the Audit Committee is a member of the Assembly, and the Vice Chair is a member of the Senate. The Audit Committee can meet and conduct its business at any time and at any location within the State, including during recess and the interim period between sessions.

The Chair sets the schedule of hearings, directs the order of presentation and consideration of audit requests, facilities discussion and questions asked by Members on the Audit Committee, and solicits public comment at each hearing. During hearings that require committee action on any matter, four Members from each house constitute a quorum and the number of votes necessary to take any action.

The Audit Committee considers each audit request, as analyzed by the Auditor's Office, and takes one of four actions on each request: approve, deny, hold, or refer to another agency. Audit requests approved by the Audit Committee are forwarded to the Auditor's Office. For these audits, the Audit Committee sets the priorities for the Auditor's Office.

Audits considered by the Audit Committee include performance audits that can examine the following related to state agencies and government programs: whether they are efficiently and effectively functioning as the Legislature intended; accomplishing their goals and objectives; complying with laws, regulations and policies; and using state resources properly. Performance audits can be on a variety of topics, ranging from broad to very specific scopes. The Audit Committee can also consider financial and financial-related audits of governmental and publicly created entities.

Additionally, the Audit Committee considers high-risk local government audit requests proposed by the California State Auditor. The California State Auditor may submit an audit request to be heard by the Audit Committee if he identifies a local government agency as high risk for the potential for waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement or that has major challenges associated with its economy, efficiency, or effectiveness (Government Code, Section 8546.10).

During the 2025-26 Legislative Session, the Audit Committee held three regular hearings at which 25 audit requests were considered. The Audit Committee approved 22 audit requests. Refer to subsequent sections of this report for detailed listings of hearings and audit requests, and for data and trends on audit requests covering the past five years. The Audit Committee also held eight oversight hearings on multiple topics during the 2025-26 Legislative Session. For a detailed listing of these hearings, please refer to subsequent sections. Additional information about the Committee is available online at: http://legaudit.assembly.ca.gov/.

California State Auditor's Office

The California State Auditor's Office (Auditor's Office) promotes the effective and efficient management of public funds and programs by providing audits of state and local government operational and financial activities to the Legislature, government officials, and citizens. The Auditor's Office is the only California state agency statutorily authorized to perform independent, nonpartisan external audits (Government Code, Section 8453 et al.). As the State's independent auditor, state law exclusively grants the Auditor's Office unfettered access to records of state and local agencies, special districts, school districts, and publicly created entities.

The Auditor's Office is responsible for annually conducting California's statewide Single Audit, a combination audit regarding the State's basic financial statements and the numerous federal programs administered by California entities. Further, when resources are available, the Auditor's Office has the authority to initiate evaluations of state issues and entities identified as being high-risk for potential waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement or that have major challenges related to efficiency and effectiveness. Similar to the state high-risk program, the Auditor's Office, to the extent resources are available, identifies local government agencies including cities, counties, special districts or publicly created entities that are high risk. When approved by the Audit Committee, the Auditor's Office can audit these local entities.

The Auditor's Office is statutorily authorized to administer California's Whistleblower Protection Act, which allows state employees and the public to report allegations of improper governmental activities committed by state agencies and their employees (Government Code Section 8547 et al.). The Auditor's Office has the authority to investigate and report on improper governmental activities.

To support the activities of the Auditor's Office, the state budget appropriated a little more than $50 million for fiscal years 2024-25 and a little more than $50 million for 2025-26. The Auditor's Office staffing averaged about 177 permanent employees in 2025 and about 195 permanent employees in 2026.

In 2025, the Auditor's Office released 12 audits approved by the Audit Committee. In 2026, it released or planned to release 12 audits approved by the Audit Committee. Refer to subsequent sections for data and trends on the number of select reports released by the Auditor's Office during the most recent five years. Reports on audits and investigations are available on the Auditor's Office website at: www.auditor.ca.gov.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Votes on Audit Requests in 2025

Summary of Results

Audits Considered	13
Audits Approved	11
Audits Failed	2

June 18, 2025 Regular Hearing

2025-107 **Coachella Valley Unified School District – Contract and Fiscal Management**
Requested by Assembly Member Jeff Gonzalez
Failed (8-0)

2025-108 **California Community Colleges – Reserve Fund Oversight**
Requested by Senator Archuleta
Approved (10-1)

2025-109 **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment**
Requested by Assembly Member Bonta
Approved (14-0)

2025-110 **California Institution for Men – Infrastructure Management**
Requested by Assembly Member Michelle Rodriguez
Approved (14-0)

2025-111 **Pesticide Use – Regulatory Oversight**
Requested by Assembly Member Connolly
Approved (9-1)

2025-114 **Los Angeles Fires – Prevention and Response**
Requested by Assembly Member Harabedian
Approved (14-0)

2025-115 **Department of Water Resources – Delta Conveyance Project**
Requested by Assembly Member Ransom
Failed (6-1)

2025-117 **Victims Restitution – State and Local Oversight**
Requested by Senator Ashby
Approved (12-0)

2025-119 **California Community Colleges – Financial Aid and Enrollment**
Requested by Assembly Member Rubio
Approved (14-0)

2025-120 **East Bay Transit Agencies – Administrative Oversight**
Requested by Senator Wahab
Approved (11-0)

2025-121 **Chino Hills State Park – Wildfire Management**
Requested by Senator Seyarto
Approved (14-0)

2025-122 **Riverside Unified School District – STEM Center**
Requested by Senator Cervantes
Approved (10-0)

2025-128 **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Chiquita Canyon Landfill**
Requested by Assembly Member Schiavo
Approved (14-0)

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Votes on Audit Requests in 2026

Summary of Results

Audits Considered	12
Audits Approved	11
Audits Failed	1

March 24, 2026 Regular Hearing

2026-106 **Orange County Board of Education – Public Administration Oversight**
Requested by Senator Umberg
Approved (9-4)

2026-108 **Department of Motor Vehicles – License Revocation**
Requested by Assembly Member Lackey
Approved (14-0)

2026-126 **Public Utilities Commission – Utility Timeliness Oversight**
Requested by Senator Allen
Approved (13-0)

2026-133 **Department of Transportation – State Route 710 Extension Project**
Requested by Senator Perez
Approved (13-0)

2026-134 **California Fusion Centers – State and Local Oversight**
Requested by Senator Cervantes
Approved (9-1)

June 1, 2026 Regular Hearing

2026-107 **Department of Human Resources – Dental Benefits Procurement**
Requested by Senator Cortese
Approved (12-0)

2026-109 **University of California – Library Resources**
Requested by Assembly Member Muratsuchi
Approved (13-0)

2026-111 **Law Enforcement Agencies – Information Sharing**
Requested by Senator Archuleta
Approved (13-0)

2026-115 **San Diego Association of Governments – Road Project Management**
Requested by Assembly Member DeMaio
Failed (6-3)

2026-117 **Employment Development Department – Unemployment Insurance Claims**
Requested by Assembly Member Addis
Approved (13-0)

2026-119 **Housing and Community Development – Housing Development Monitoring**
Requested by Assembly Member Ávila Farías
Approved (13-0)

2026-120 **Board of State and Community Corrections – Proposition 47 Grant Administration**
Requested by Senator Valladares
Approved (12-0)

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Oversight Hearings in 2025

Joint Oversight Hearing – March 5, 2025

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, and Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Topic: California Is Not Adequately Prepared to Protect Its Most Vulnerable Residents From Natural Disasters

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on December 5, 2019, titled *California Is Not Adequately Prepared to Protect Its Most Vulnerable Residents From Natural Disasters* (Report 2019-103). The California State Auditor, and representatives from Governor's Office of Emergency Services participated at the hearing. The chair of the California Commission on Aging and directors of The Arc of California, and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation participated at the hearing.

Oversight Hearing – July 15, 2025

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Topic: Conditional Release Program for Sexually Violent Predators: Program Participants Are Less Likely to Reoffend, While the State Has Difficulty Finding Suitable Housing

Summary: The Joint Legislative Audit Committee held an oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on October 15, 2024, titled *Conditional Release Program for Sexually Violent Predators: Program Participants Are Less Likely to Reoffend, While the State Has Difficulty Finding Suitable Housing* (Report 2023-130). The California State Auditor, and representatives from the California Department of State Hospitals, and Liberty Healthcare participated at the hearing.

Joint Oversight Hearing – August 19, 2025

Committees: Select Committee on Native American Affairs and Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Topic: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: The University of California Lacks the Accountability and Urgency Necessary to Promptly Return Native American Remains and Cultural Items

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on August 19, 2025, titled *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: The University of California Lacks the Accountability and Urgency Necessary to Promptly Return Native American Remains and Cultural Items* (Report 2024-047). The California State Auditor, Provost of the University of California Office of the President, Chancellor of the University of California Berkeley, and repatriation coordinators at the University of California Santa Barbara, and University of California San Diego participated at the hearing. The chair of the Tachi Yokut Tribe, Redding Rancheria, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Tule River Tribe, and a member of the Venturina Chumash participated at the hearing.

Joint Oversight Hearing – August 27, 2025

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, and Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee

Topic: The Division of Occupational Safety and Health: Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on July 17, 2025, titled *The Division of Occupational Safety and Health: Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers* (Report 2024-115). The California State Auditor, and representatives from the Department of Industrial Relations, California Federation of Labor Unions, Worksafe, and the California Chamber of Commerce participated at the hearing.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Oversight Hearings in 2026

Joint Oversight Hearing – February 17, 2026

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee and Assembly Business and Professions Committee

Topic: Department of Cannabis Control: Unclear Rules and Insufficient Enforcement Hamper Its Ability to Identify Packaging That Is Attractive to Children

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on August 7, 2025, titled Department of Cannabis Control Unclear Rules and Insufficient Enforcement Hamper Its Ability to Identify Packaging That Is Attractive to Children (Report 2024-105). The California State Auditor, and representatives from the Department of Cannabis Control, California Cannabis Industry Association, California Cannabis Operators Association, and Getting it Right from the Start participated at the hearing.

Oversight Hearing – June 29, 2026

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Topic: California's Systems of Public Higher Education: Streamlining the Community College Transfer Process Could Increase Access to Bachelor's Degrees

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on September 24, 2024, titled California's Systems of Public Higher Education: Streamlining the Community College Transfer Process Could Increase Access to Bachelor's Degrees (Report 2023-123) The California State Auditor, California Community Colleges, The California State University, University of California and representatives from the Student Senate for California Community Colleges participated at the hearing.

Joint Oversight Hearing – August 4, 2026

Committees: Select Committee on Native American Affairs and Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Topic: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act – 2026 Update from the University of California

Summary: The committees held a joint oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on April 15, 2025, titled *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: The University of California Lacks the Accountability and Urgency Necessary to Promptly Return Native American Remains and Cultural Items* (Report 2024-047). The California State Auditor, Provost at the University of California Office of the President, Chancellor of the University of California Berkeley, and repatriation coordinators at the University of California Santa Barbara and University of California San Diego participated at the hearing. The chairs of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, Redding Rancheria and Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribe provided valuable perspective and insight. The director of Tribal Cultural Resources, Table Mountain Rancheria and the Councilmember of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

Oversight Hearing – October 29, 2026

Committees: Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Topic: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Its Actions in Response to Conditions Near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Have Been Incomplete

Summary: The committee held an oversight hearing to discuss the findings and recommendations of an audit report released on September 29, 2026, titled *Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Its Actions in Response to Conditions Near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Have Been Incomplete* (Report 2025-128). The California State Auditor, California Communities Against Toxics, Val Verde Civic Association, and impacted residents participated at the hearing.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Audit Reports Published in 2025

Summary

Total Audit Committee Reports Released in 2025	12

Audit Committee Reports Released by State Auditor

2024-105 **Department of Cannabis Control: Unclear Rules and Insufficient Enforcement Hamper Its Ability to Identify Packaging That Is Attractive to Children**
Requested by Assembly Member Irwin
Published August 2025

2024-106 **Highlands Community Charter and Technical Schools: Lax Oversight Allowed Highlands to Inappropriately Receive More Than $180 Million in K–12 Funding**
Requested by Assembly Member Muratsuchi
Published June 2025

2024-107 **California Healthy Youth Act**
Greater Accountability Would Help Ensure That Districts Comply With All Aspects of the Law
Requested by Assembly Member Zbur
Published October 2025

2024-108 **Alameda County Department of Children and Family Services Delayed Investigations and Support Services Risk the Health and Safety of Youth**
Requested by Senator Wahab
Published September 2025

2024-111 **California Colleges Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers**
California's Systems of Public Higher Education Could Better Address Student Housing Needs
Requested by Assembly Member Hart
Published October 2025

2024-114 **State Health Care Staffing Contracts Contract Workers Are a Small but Growing Proportion of Three State Facilities' Workforces**
Requested by Assembly Member Lowenthal
Published December 2025

2024-115 **The Division of Occupational Safety and Health: Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers**
Requested by Assembly Member Ortega
Published July 2025

2024-116 **Office of AIDS: Further Improvements to Its Contract Management Processes Are Needed to Reduce the Risk of Fraud**
Requested by Senator Laird
Published July 2025

2024-118 **State Telework Policies: Although In-Office Work Has Benefits, a One-Size-Fits-All Approach to Telework Is Counter to State Policy and May Limit Opportunities for Significant Cost Savings**
Requested by Assembly Member Hoover
Published August 2025

2023-126 **California Community Colleges: Oversight of the 50 Percent Law Is Ineffective, and the Law Could Be Amended to Better Support Students**
Requested by Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez
Published April 2025

2023-127 **The California Public Utilities Commission: Without Improving Its Oversight, the Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs May Not Be Worth Their Cost to Ratepayers**
Requested by Assembly Member Ting
Published March 2025

Emergency Audit

2024-128 **City of Anaheim**
Requested by Senator Umberg
Published March 2025

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Audit Reports Published in 2026

Summary

Total Audit Committee Reports Released or Anticipated in 2026	12

Audit Committee Reports Released by State Auditor

2024-104 **Housing Choice Voucher Program: Households Face Long Wait Times for Vouchers and Potential Housing Loss When an Emergency Housing Program Ends**
Requested by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva
Published March 2025

2024-109 **California Department of Housing and Community Development: Increased Support Is Critical for Local Jurisdictions to Complete Timely Housing Plans**
Requested by Senator Glazer
Published January 2026

2025-108 **California Community Colleges Reserve Funds: Some Community Colleges Have Growing Reserves but Lack Clear Spending Plans That Would Improve Student Outcomes**
Requested by Senator Archuleta
Published August 2026

2025-109 **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment: Insufficient Oversight and Unreliable Data Threaten the Program's Goals**
Requested by Assembly Member Bonta
Published November 2026

2025-110 **The California Institution for Men: Its Deteriorating Infrastructure Adversely Affects Incarcerated Individuals, While Increasing the Risk of a Security Incident**
Requested by Assembly Member Michelle Rodriguez
Published August 2026

2025-114 **Los Angeles Fires – Prevention and Response**
Requested by Assembly Member Harabedian
Expected in December 2026

2025-117 **Victim Restitution: Improved Coordination and Consistency Would Ensure State and Local Collection Entities Collect and Disburse More Restitution**
Requested by Senator Ashby
Published April 2026

2025-119 **California Community Colleges – Financial Aid and Enrollment**
Requested by Assembly Member Rubio
Expected in December 2026

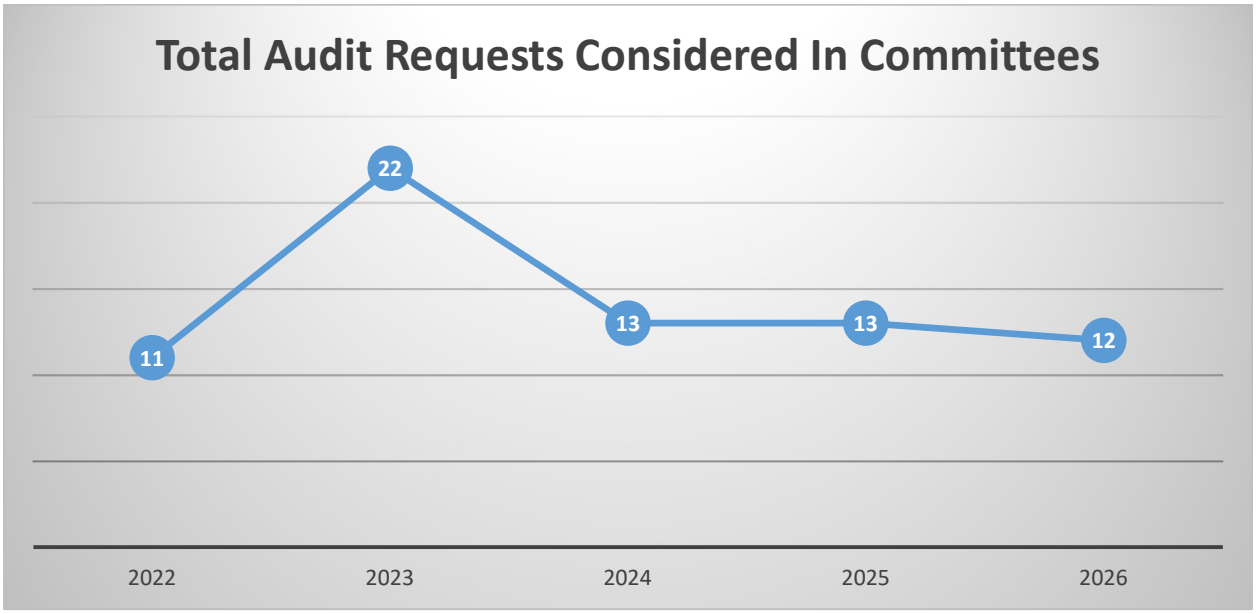
2025-120 **East Bay Transit Agencies: They Collaborate Consistently but Face Declining Reserves, Slow Ridership Recovery, and Barriers to Consolidation**
Requested by Senator Wahab
Published May 2026

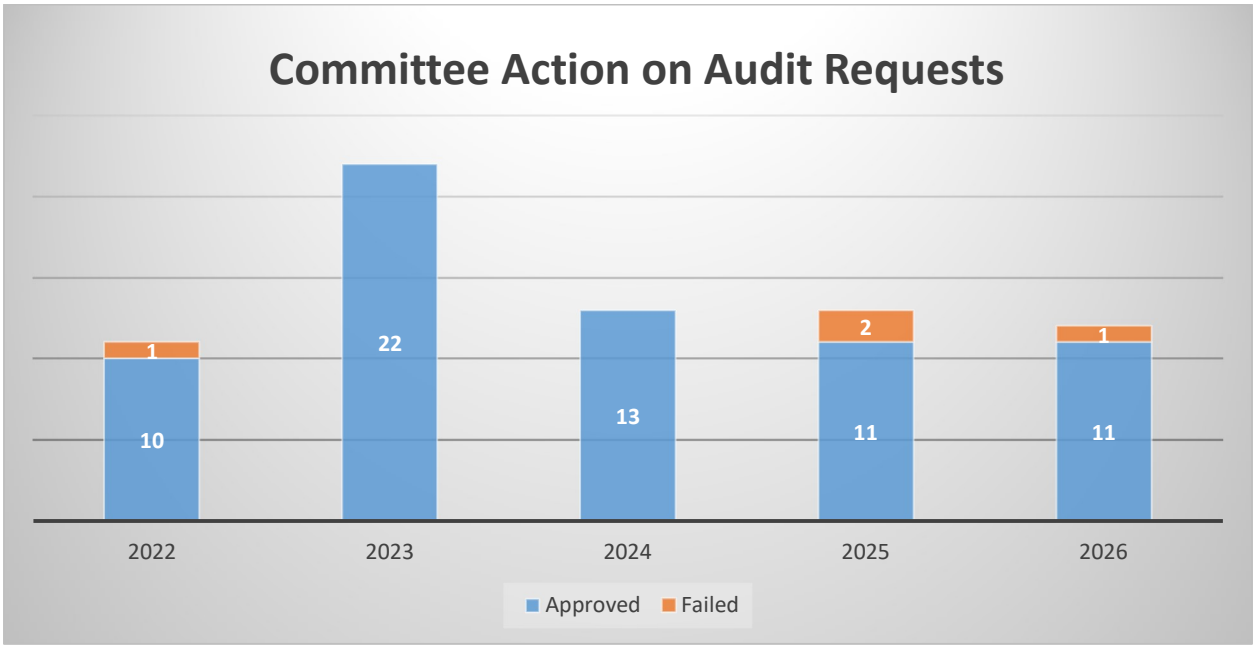
2025-121 **Chino Hills State Park: State Parks' Wildfire Resiliency Efforts Face Few Requirements and Limited Coordination**
Requested by Senator Seyarto
Published August 2026

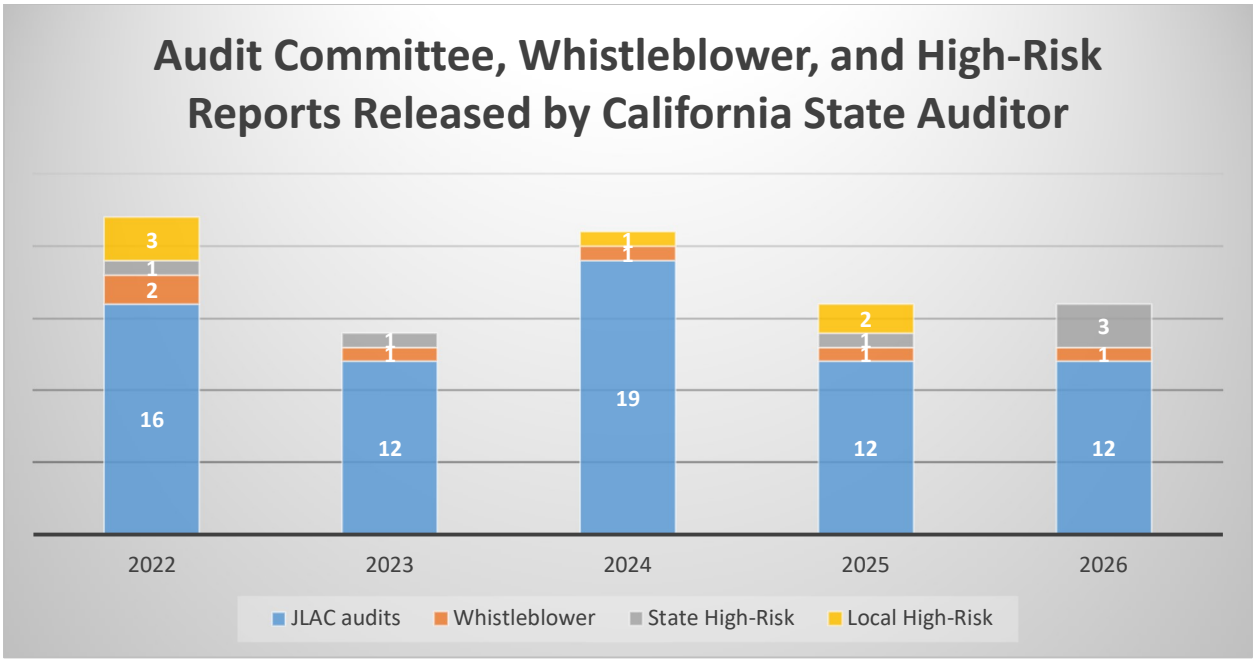
2025-122 **Riverside STEM Education Center Project: Delayed Decision-Making and Inconsistent Communication Contributed to Delays, Higher Costs, and Reduced Transparency**
Requested by Senator Cervantes
Published June 2026

2025-128 **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Its Actions in Response to Conditions Near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Have Been Incomplete**
Requested by Assembly Member Schiavo
Published September 2026

Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Data and Trends







Note: The above graphic does not capture all reports published by the State Auditor's Office, including but not limited to audit reports required by statutes.