



June 21, 2024

Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
St. Johns County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of St. Johns County, Florida (the “County”) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon, dated June 21, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS

##### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. Except for the implementation of GASBS No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, no new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management’s knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The significant estimates affecting the County’s financial statements include the following accounts: Useful Lives of Capital Assets, Self-Insurance Liability, Compensated Absences, Net Pension Liability, and Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”).

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The following disclosures are considered significant: Note 3 - Cash and Investments; Note 5 - Capital Asset Activity; Note 6 - Long-Term Obligations; Note 10 - Employee Benefits; and Note 13 - Risk Management.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no corrected (made) or uncorrected (not made) journal entries noted during the performance of our audits.

#### DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 21, 2024.

#### MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the County's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

#### OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the County's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

#### OTHER MATTERS

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparisons, OPEB, and Pension schedules, which are required supplementary information ("RSI") that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were also engaged to report on Combining and Individual Fund Statements and Schedules as well as the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
St. Johns County, Florida  
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Page 3

RESTRICTION ON USE

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of County Commissioners and management of the County, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

**MSL, P.A.**