



Montana and GASB Statement No. 77

Contact: Christine Wen

chris@goodjobsfirst.org

Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure? Local Government Assistance Bureau Chief Kim Smith. The [Local Government Services Bureau](#) (LGSB) in the State's Department of Administration works with local governments (counties, cities & towns, school districts and special districts) to ensure uniform financial accountability, and to assist the local governments in complying with their statutory financial and budgetary reporting requirements, including provisions of the Montana Single Audit Act.

Who commented on the Exposure Draft from Montana? Montana Organizing Project joined 14 other Alliance for a Just Society Affiliates in a [comment](#) supporting GASB 77 and calling for additional disclosure about the intent of each abatement program; disclosure of the names of abatement recipients, and disclosure of future year abatement liabilities.

Does the state's most recent CAFR include GASB 77 disclosure? Yes.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with GAAP and therefore GASB Statements? According to GASB's [research brief](#) titled "State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting" (2008), Montana's 352 school districts are required by state law to use GAAP accounting. None of Montana's 54 counties, or 129 municipalities are required to use GAAP. However, the same study indicates that many jurisdictions that are not legally required to follow GAAP do so anyway, presumably to satisfy credit ratings agencies and obtain the lowest possible interest rates on bond borrowings.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts reported on GASB 77 disclosures in 2018? 7 of 37 sampled counties/municipalities and 7 of 56 sampled school districts.

Is there a state office that collects CAFRS from counties/cities/school districts? By law, local governments in Montana must submit their annual reports to the state's Local Government Services Bureau. The LGS [Local Government Entity Portal](#) provides modest transparency in Montana's local government reporting by preventing some data from local government CAFRs, but not access to complete CAFRs. It does not appear that GASB 77 data will be reported on this site.

Does state government or academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB or completing CAFRs? The [Local Government Accounting and Financial Reporting Section](#) provides technical assistance and training to local government accounting and financial personnel in the areas of local government finance, accounting, budgeting and financial reporting. The Local Government Services Bureau has also issued statements on other GASB statements (including [GASB 68](#)) directed both at local government finance officers as well as the general public. [Montana State University's Local Government Center](#) also offers training on financial reporting to local government officials throughout the state. In 2015, they offered a [webinar on GASB 68 and 71](#).

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district? No.

Which state office is responsible for completing state's CAFR? Montana Department of Administration, State Financial Services Division.

For more information on GASB 77, visit: <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb>

Updated: March 2, 2020