

Dr. Gregory O. Lawson

June 17, 2025

Recruitment Committee

Contra Costa County
Office of the Auditor-Controller
Martinez, CA

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the Auditor-Controller position with Contra Costa County. With over two decades of public sector financial leadership including roles as Chief Financial Officer, Controller, Chief Consultant, and Audit Manager for municipalities, counties, and special districts, I bring a proven record of strategic oversight, audit expertise, and transparent financial stewardship. My career has been dedicated to upholding fiscal integrity, modernizing systems, and building high-performing teams that embody accountability and service.

As CFO/ Treasurer of Alameda County, CFO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and Deputy Finance Director of the City of Richmond, I have led diverse finance functions: from internal audit and general accounting to property tax, investments, debt issuance, and payroll operations. At Alameda County, I directed the \$6 billion Investment Pool, oversaw the Deferred Compensation Program, oversaw the Short-term Loans Program for Scholls throughout the County and served as Trustee for the \$7 billion Retirement Association. I also chaired both the Treasury Oversight and Deferred Compensation Committees and helped modernize internal processes to produce immediate budget savings and long-term operational efficiency. As CFO / Treasurer for Alameda County, I successfully led the completion of over 20 financial audits (including quarterly, annual, special, internal and external audits) that were submitted on time, and with no audit findings.

Earlier in my career, I conducted and led over 125 governmental audits with Deloitte & Touche and Grant Thornton, focusing on internal controls, single audits, and financial reporting across local and federal agencies. As an auditor and financial consultant, I developed internal control policies, trained finance teams, and prepared Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for several California cities and districts, including Contra Costa's neighbors in Oakland, Hayward, and Richmond.

Beyond my technical qualifications, I am a consensus-driven leader who values equity, transparency, and innovation. I've successfully led finance teams through ERP and payroll system upgrades, advocated for legislative reform while serving on the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors' Legislative Committee, and championed interdepartmental collaboration to drive accountable governance.

I hold a B.S. in Accounting from California State University-East Bay, advanced degrees in Leadership from Emory and Columbia Universities, and have completed relevant certifications through the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). I meet the statutory requirements for this role, having held senior fiscal leadership positions in multiple counties and cities for well over three years within the last five.

Contra Costa County deserves a fiscally responsible and visionary Auditor-Controller, one who can provide operational continuity while modernizing systems, strengthening internal controls, and elevating public trust. I would be honored to bring my experience and commitment to serve the residents and departments of Contra Costa County in that capacity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to the County's continued excellence in financial stewardship and service delivery.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory O. Lawson

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Seasoned financial executive with over 20 years of expertise in public accounting and finance, serving local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as Fortune 500 companies. Adept in financial leadership roles including CFO, Controller, Audit Manager, and Senior Auditor with proven success in optimizing financial operations, implementing best practices, and driving efficiency. Skilled in accounting, auditing, budgeting, financial reporting, leadership, team development, strategic planning, treasury, and regulatory compliance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Financial Officer

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Atlanta, GA (July 2023-June 2025)

- Lead and oversee finance and administration, managing accounting, budgeting, grants, investments, payroll, and procurement.
- Ensure compliance with GAAP, GASB, FASB, and regulatory guidelines.
- Develop strategic financial goals, internal controls, and audit coordination.
- Train, supervise, and mentor finance teams for operational excellence.
- Provide financial reporting and oversight for annual audits and IRS 990 filings.

Chief Financial Consultant

Lawson & Associates (October 2018-June 2023)

- Prepared Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR) for various governmental entities.
- Provided technical guidance on GAAP, GASB, financial statements, and regulatory compliance.
- Developed financial policies, procedures, and internal controls to enhance efficiency.

- Led financial audits for over 100 government entities, ensuring accuracy and accountability.

Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer

Alameda County, Oakland, CA (March 2014-September 2018)

- Oversaw financial operations including accounting auditing, budgeting, debt management, investments, and collections.
- Managed all county debt issuances and refinancing efforts.
- Directed a \$6 billion investment pool and chaired the Treasury Oversight Committee.
- Developed strategic cost-saving initiatives, including IT-led efficiency improvements.
- Provided leadership for treasury staff training and professional development.

Other Relevant Roles:

- **Deputy Finance Director, City of Richmond, CA**
- **Controller, City of Oakland, CA**
- **Audit Manager & Senior Auditor, Deloitte & Touche LLP, Grant Thornton LLP**

EDUCATION

- **Doctorate Degree in Leadership** – Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- **Master’s Degree in Leadership – Master’s Degree in Leadership**, New York, NY
- **Bachelor of Science (Accounting Major)** – California State University-East Bay, CA

RELEVANT TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

- Advanced Treasury Management, Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA)
- Financial Planning & Multi-year Budgeting, GFOA
- Cash Flow Forecasting, GFOA
- Advanced Governmental Accounting, GFOA
- Pensions, OPEB, and Debt for Local Governments, Georgia State University

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (CACTTC),
Legislative Committee Member
- National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators,
Associate Member
- Government Finance Officers Association, Associate Member
- Deloitte US Alumni, Member

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ORACLE Financials | SAP | PeopleSoft | QuickBooks | Microsoft Suite