

Application to Fill City Auditor Vacancy

Submitted on	20 April 2026, 5:54pm
Receipt number	4
Related form version	8

First name	Garrett
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Last name	Patterson
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Pronouns	he/him
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Address matching your voter registration	163 N Ohio Avenue
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Phone number	3303242109
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Email address	pattersongarrettm@gmail.com
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I am a registered voter in the City of Columbus, I reside in the City, and understand I will have to reside in Columbus for the duration of my time in this role.	Yes
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I am ready to begin to serve full-time as City Auditor starting the week of May 4, 2026.	Yes
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To enable that, I am prepared to collaborate with the city's ethics counsel to remove myself promptly from other employment, prohibited board service or personal financial interests that constitute fiduciary responsibility for myself or anyone in my household, or other conflicts of interest, should I be selected.	Yes
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I am available to attend the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting at 5 p.m. in City Hall.	Yes
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Upload resume	Patterson Resume.pdf
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Attached a cover letter (up to 2 pages) outlining your interest in the role of City Auditor, with an emphasis on past experiences in government financial management and municipal bond markets.	Patterson Cover Letter.pdf
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The Ohio Revised Code and City Code require the City Auditor to hold a bond to faithfully perform the duties. Please disclose any past criminal or civil legal history, personal or professional financial or credit challenges, or other circumstances (like those that would emerge in a traditional background check or a legal "character and fitness" review) that would keep you from holding a bond. Note: This form does generate public records, so anything you disclose here may become public.

Councilmembers,

I'm writing with interest in the Columbus City Auditor vacancy. I'm a public finance leader with a record of innovative strategic thinking, bold decisions, and impactful outcomes.

I have spent my career in the Columbus public finance ecosystem. I currently lead one of the country's most respected debt management teams at The Ohio State University. I manage the university's \$3.5 billion debt portfolio (third largest among U.S. public universities), credit ratings, and the internal bank, a capital financing mechanism with \$350 million of annual receipts and expenditures. This position demands cross-functional collaboration and leadership in a complex shared-governance environment.

My resume provides further detail, but I highlight some of my core competencies below:

DEBT MANAGEMENT

I've managed or participated in over \$4.5 billion of bond issuances for various political subdivisions across public and private sector roles. I currently manage Ohio State's \$3.5 billion debt portfolio and have led bond sales and capital structuring recommendations for various Treasurer of State bond programs, including various lease-appropriation credits (\$1.5 billion), transportation credits (\$1 billion), Buckeye Tobacco Settlement Financing Authority (\$5 billion), Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund (\$150 million) and others. I've led many significant and innovative transactions to minimize borrowing costs and risks for various issuers, including Ohio State's first ever tender offer and the second largest single tax-exempt fixed-rate serial bond issued by a higher education institution.

STRATEGIC AND SHARED GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT

Bond transactions require strong leadership skills to coordinate among complex teams. I work with authorizing authorities, consult with advisors and counsel, negotiate with underwriters, present to rating agencies, and coordinate among these and more to ensure team alignment and timely execution. My leadership in this area led to the fastest-ever time to market for Ohio State, with just 15 days between transaction kickoff and pricing, permitting the university to take advantage of favorable market conditions for a \$655 million refinancing transaction.

I have significant experience navigating shared governance environments to accomplish key strategic initiatives. I coordinate with university borrowers, central leadership, and construction managers to finance capital projects, and manage board of trustee and state agency processes to authorize bond transactions. I also manage two university-wide compliance processes, coordinating with nearly 25 distinct reporting units (colleges, health system, facilities, controller's office, legal affairs) to ensure accurate, timely, and transparent reporting to internal and external stakeholders.

ACCOUNTING, AUDIT, AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

I approve \$1B accounting entries annually at Ohio State to record construction expenditures, expense and debt service payments and amortizations, bond issuances, and bond disbursements and lead initiatives to improve accounting entry processes, reducing processing time and error frequency.

I have significant experience preparing and reviewing audited and unaudited financial statements for the university, its affiliated entities, and various State entities and authorities under Governmental

Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards. I manage bonded debt and swap audit processes and schedules for the university and separately audited internal bank borrowers.

FINANCIAL PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND FORECASTING

I manage the review of complex pro formas to determine project financial viability, forecasting project revenues, expenses, and capital needs. These projects range from small capital equipment purchases to material strategic business acquisitions or operational expansions. These reviews have led the university to both avoid negative ROI initiatives and to take advantage of unique margin-generating projects.

I also manage enterprise debt capacity and other financial forecasts under various scenarios to ensure sustainable debt service repayment structures, and analyze consolidated university financial projections for potential credit rating impacts.

CREDIT RATINGS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

At Ohio State I manage all rating agency communications and reporting to maintain the highest possible credit ratings for the university. During my tenure, both Fitch and S&P Global Ratings upgraded the university to AA+, the second-highest possible credit rating. I also manage the university's EMMA website, its public-facing debt and internal bank websites, and best-in-class voluntary quarterly updates to bondholders to provide transparency to both specialized market participants and the general public. I have also maintained many relationships with municipal finance service providers during my career, including advisors, underwriters, counsels, and others.

COMPLIANCE

I serve as the university's Disclosure Officer, responsible for ensuring compliance with all Continuing Disclosure Agreements and Official Statement preparation, maintaining a high degree of transparency and data accuracy. I also manage cross-functional university processes to ensure compliance with federal tax laws concerning use of bond proceeds and bond-financed assets, including responsibility to record allocation of bond proceeds for federal tax law purposes, and advise on investment of bond proceeds. I also ensure compliance with state law and key university debt and investment policy provisions and recommend changes as needed.

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE

I'm a dedicated public servant, both personally and professionally. I often serve as a guest speaker for Ohio State finance and public administration courses and as speaker or panelist at industry events. I also proudly serve as a Precent Election Official for the Franklin County Board of Elections in both May and November elections.

I believe much of my work experience, skills, and familiarity with shared-governance environments are transferable to the position. I welcome opportunities to discuss my candidacy for the vacancy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Garrett Patterson

Garrett Patterson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Public finance leader with **record of strategic thinking, bold decisions, and impactful outcomes.**
- **Wide-ranging skillset and experience in public finance administration**, including leadership in strategic planning, budgeting, capital finance, debt management, investment management, auditing and accounting, contract negotiations, financial modeling, and policy development.
- **Strong communicator**, with record of explaining complex financial matters and strategies to audiences with and without strong financial backgrounds. Frequently sought by external peers to advise on potential operational or financial decisions and overview best-in-class operations.
- **Valued leader and effective manager** known for strong organizational, staff development, and cross-functional leadership skills.

EXPERIENCE

The Ohio State University | Columbus, Ohio

Director, Debt Management and Internal Bank Operations

Nov 2023 – Present

- Manage two analysts to operate internal bank (140 loans, \$2.9 billion), bonded debt (\$3.5 billion), and interest rate swap (\$328 million) portfolios to finance construction expenditures, capital equipment and real estate purchases, and corporate acquisitions of the enterprise and its affiliated entities (funding \$1 billion of expenditures across 45+ projects).
- Develop debt financing and capital structure strategic plans and the annual internal bank model, with \$350 million of both annual receipts and expenditures.
- Serve key role in enterprise-wide annual strategic capital plan (\$850 million annual capital expenditures) and long-range capital plan processes.
- Serve key role in enterprise-wide annual budget (\$10 billion revenue) and long-range budget processes.
- Manage credit rating agency relationships with thorough and regular updates to maintain strong ratings (currently the second-highest rating from each of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch at Aa1 / AA+ / AA+ respectively).
- Serve as Disclosure Officer for the university and ensure compliance with Continuing Disclosure Agreements.
- Manage compliance with federal tax laws concerning use of bond proceeds and 100+ bond-financed assets.
- Identify and manage suitable investments for bond proceeds based on expected construction expenditure schedules and federal tax law.
- Approve \$1 billion accounting entries annually for internal bank activities and provide timely and accurate data to external auditors concerning interest rate swaps, bonded debt, and financing transactions.
- Manage compliance with university debt and investment policies and recommend changes as needed.

Debt Management Senior Analyst

Aug 2022 – Nov 2023

- Led fixed- and variable-rate bond sales over \$980 million and \$600 million tender offer for outstanding bonds, the first in the university's history.
- Led and assisted internal bank operations, including loan evaluations, repayments, and disbursements.
- Prepared executive reports for management and Board of Trustees.
- Prepared and reviewed accounting entries and wires, including ~\$200 million annual debt service payments.

Treasurer of State of the State of Ohio | Columbus, Ohio

Finance Manager

July 2020 – Aug 2022

- Led and facilitated bond sales for various state programs and credits totaling over \$2.1 billion.
- Led debt service calculations and payments (fixed and variable rate, swaps) averaging \$1.7 billion annually.

Garrett Patterson

- Managed Ohio Market Access Program (OMAP) and prepared credit analyses of OMAP applicants.
- Prepared and reviewed audited and unaudited financial reports and disclosures including those required by bond proceedings and Ohio law. (incl. Buckeye Tobacco Settlement Financing Authority, Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund, State Infrastructure Bank, Lease Appropriation and General Obligation Bonds).
- Prepared capital structure recommendations.
- Reviewed and drafted legislation and bond proceedings for existing and new programs.

Hilltop Securities Inc. | Columbus, Ohio

Public Finance Analyst

Nov 2018 – Oct 2019

- Provided analytical and administrative support for over \$200 million in public and private bond transactions.
- Gained progressively more administrative and client-facing duties to those performed at prior firm.

Ross, Sinclair and Associates, LLC | Columbus, Ohio

Public Finance Analyst

Jan 2018 – Nov 2018

Public Finance Analyst Intern

Oct 2014 – Jan 2018

- Served as junior banker to political subdivisions across the state of Ohio, including school districts, townships, cities, counties, port authorities, and higher education institutions as underwriter and municipal advisor.
- Provided analytical and administrative support for over \$1.1 billion in public and private bond transactions.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County – Office of Mayor Karl Dean | Nashville, TN

Policy and Legislation Intern

May 2014 – Aug 2014

- Drafted policy briefs and recommendations for novel Davidson County issues.
- Summarized complex legislation including lease-leaseback transactions and Tax Incremental Financings.
- Processed constituent calls.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration and Leadership, The Ohio State University, 2026 (expected)

Certificate of Accounting Concentration (CPA Prep), Columbus State Community College, 2026 (expected)

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, The Ohio State University, 2017

Specialization: Finance

Bingham Award: awarded each year by philosophy faculty to the most outstanding undergraduate philosophy essay.

PRESENTATIONS

Financing Transformational Projects, July 2025. Presented Overview of key public finance concepts to 50 policy advocates.

Rethinking Your Central Bank, Treasury Management Leadership Group, June 2025. Presented overview of Ohio State's internal bank key strategic initiatives to 20 university treasurers and deputies.

Debt Management Strategies in Today's Volatile Environment, Treasury Symposium, Jan 2024. Presented merits of various debt management trends to ~300 university treasurers, CFOs, and finance professionals.