

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **D.C. Auditor Patterson is Reconfirmed by D.C. Council**

**Washington D.C.** – District of Columbia Auditor Kathy Patterson, who heads up the office responsible for financial and performance oversight of District of Columbia government agencies, was reconfirmed unanimously for a new, six-year term by the D.C. Council today.

Patterson, who took over the role of Auditor in December 2014, has earned the reputation for producing thorough, comprehensive reports that support the Council in its oversight activities and provide D.C. taxpayers with thoughtful and objective information on the functions of D.C. government agencies.

“It has been an honor to serve as Auditor for these past two years, and I’m proud of my capable and committed staff and their work to improve the way the D.C. government does business,” said Patterson following her confirmation. “I’m grateful to the Council for their continued support and confidence, and look forward to continuing to make sound recommendations that can improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the District government.”

Patterson served on the Council from 1995 to 2007, including the tumultuous period when the District was nearing bankruptcy and worked its way to consecutive balanced budgets, chairing committees on Government Operations, Judiciary, and Education. She was the author of major policies, including smoke-free D.C., legislation governing police practices in handling demonstrations, school modernization, and juvenile justice. Council reforms Patterson initiated include the legislature’s annual performance hearings, authorization for special investigations, and a separate Council budget office.

In endorsing Patterson’s confirmation, Councilmember Elissa Silverman (At-Large) said that the Auditor’s office consistently produces the “research and data that informs us as legislators.” Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3) described the Auditor as responsive to the needs of the Council, and someone who “doesn’t pull her punches, who gets to the problem and identifies it, and makes recommendations,” adding, “I just can’t imagine anyone better equipped to perform this function.” And, Councilmember Jack Evans (Ward 2) praised his former Council colleague for her leadership that has “raised the bar” on the reports produced by the Auditor’s office.

Patterson’s significant accomplishments during her term as Auditor include reports on government programs that are priorities for Council oversight, increasing the impact and value of ODCA’s work, expanding ODCA’s capacity, and working more closely with the Council to keep the Council up-to-date with ODCA’s work.

In addition, under Patterson's leadership, the Peer Review Team of the Association of Local Government Auditors reported that ODCA's internal controls and policies are at a high level of compliance, with several improvements since its prior examination of ODCA three years ago.

In voting to reconfirm Patterson, the Council agreed that the perception and actual quality of ODCA's work over the past five years has greatly improved. Since 2015, ODCA has issued approximately 70 audits and other reports, including investigations into the District's School Modernization Program, the Metropolitan Police Department's use of force, the oversight of private development projects, the contracting out of D.C. Public Schools food services, the protection of personally identifiable information, and the District's response to Winter Storm Jonas.

Patterson, a 40-year resident of D.C., currently resides in Ward 3. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Northwestern University, a Master's degree in English literature from Georgetown University. Patterson began her career as a reporter, where she reported on national and local politics, social welfare, and education policy.

After eight years as the director of communications for the American Public Welfare Association, now the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), an organization that was created during the Great Depression to assist state government officials with representing the concerns of their constituents to the federal government, Patterson was elected to the Council representing Ward 3 in 1994. She was reelected twice.

Prior to her appointment as Auditor, Patterson was Director of Government Relations for The Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit global research and public policy organization dedicated to serving the public.

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*The mission of the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) is to support the Council of the District of Columbia by making sound recommendations that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the District government. Learn more at [www.dcauditor.org](http://www.dcauditor.org).*