

**COUNTY OF SALEM**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE POSITION OF**

**COUNTY AUDITOR**

**Position and Term:**

The County of Salem requests proposals from New Jersey Registered Municipal Accountants ("RMA"), or firms with RMAs on staff, interested in serving in the position of "County Auditor" from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Minimum Requirements:**

Must have at least 2 available fully licensed and in good standing as a New Jersey RMA.

Minimum 3 years of experience as an auditor for a New Jersey County.

**Description of Services:**

Serves as County Auditor for the County of Salem. Attends meetings with County Officials or Board of Chosen Freeholders as requested. Interfaces closely, typically on a regular basis, with County's Chief Financial Officer. Is responsible for the preparation of the County's annual audit and year-end financial statements in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Acts as a consultant to the Chief Financial Officer in relation to preparation and issues related to the annual budget and other financial and reporting matters.

**Compensation:**

Compensation shall be based on a professional services contract to be negotiated by the County with the applicant deemed to be most advantageous.

The firm shall be entitled to bill in accordance with its customary rate schedule for municipal clients provided the same is reviewed and approved by the County.

**Fair and Open Process:**

These proposals are being solicited through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4. Applicants who meet with the Minimum Requirements for the position as set forth below, and are willing to provide the described services for the disclosed compensation, shall be evaluated on the basis of experience and qualifications as set forth in the criteria described below.

In order to be considered applicants **must submit** their reply to the Office of the County Purchasing Agent at 94 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079 (phone # 856 935 7510 x 8401) **on or before 10:00 a.m. on December 18, 2009**. At that time and place all proposals received shall be publicly opened and announced by the County Purchasing Agent or her designee.

Proposals will thereafter be received by the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders who shall award the contract for the services. The award of the Contract will be based on the following criteria: (i) responsiveness to the Qualification Evaluation and other required submissions; (ii) general experience and reputation in the field; (iii) specific experience/knowledge of the County of Salem and the subject matter to be addressed under the Contract; (iv) qualifications and experience which most closely match the needs of the County; (v) availability to accommodate meeting and interface requirements with the County Officials for meetings, phone conferences, attendance at events and office consultations; (vi) office resources, including backup staff, which are deemed most adequate to service the needs of the County; and (vii) the applicant who is deemed otherwise most advantageous based on all information submitted or gathered in connection with the proposal.

The County reserves the right to: (i) not select any of the applicants; (ii) require applicants to submit to a personal interview and/or submit additional or clarifying information; (iii) to reject any or all proposals; (iv) to waive any informalities in the proposals; and (v) procure the articles or services from other sources if deemed most advantageous to the objectives of the County.

The County's determination of the applicant who is most advantageous to the goals and objectives of the County shall be final and conclusive.

The award of the contract shall be determined by majority vote on a resolution to be read by title at an open public meeting.

No applicant shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any County Official, Officer or employee to use his/her official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment. No applicant shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any County Official, Officer or employee to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages.

**Qualification Evaluation:**

1. Minimum Requirements. Please attach resume and/or other documentation demonstrating compliance with the "Minimum Requirements" detailed above.
2. Describe the number of registered municipal accountants on your staff.
3. Describe the number of certified public accountants on your staff.
4. Describe the size of your firm and firm capabilities with regard to municipal clients.
5. Describe your firm's participation in a Qualifying Peer Review Program.
6. Describe your firm's ability with regard to not only auditing expertise but also expertise in the area of bonding, rate studies, litigation support, human resource and tax.
7. Describe the firm's involvement with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Registered County Accountant Association and Committee involvement with these associations relating to governmental accounting.

8. Describe your firm's policy with respect to continuing professional education.
9. Please list all public entities/agencies for which you presently serve as auditor complete with term of appointment and contact person and related phone number.
10. Disclose and describe if you or any member of your firm have ever had their professional license suspended or revoked in New Jersey or any other state.
11. What is the location of your Office? In Salem County; or out of Salem County.
12. Describe the resources of your Office. Include details of support staff. Include information on other qualified auditors in your office who would be available to County Officials in the event you were absent or unavailable.