



Brookings County
Board of County Commissioners

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January 20, 2026

Cassi Chase
Department of Legislative Audit
225 S. Twin Pines Ave.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57110

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Brookings County as of December 31, 2024 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the modified cash basis general purpose financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Brookings County and the respective changes in financial position in conformity with a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the aforementioned financial statements in conformity with a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining appropriate internal controls, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your examination.

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated 7/1/2025, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above in accordance a basis of accounting other than United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (modified cash basis).
2. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
4. We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
5. We have reviewed, approved, and taken responsibility for the financial statements and related notes.

6. We have identified and communicated to you all previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
7. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
8. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.
9. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements requiring adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
10. The effects of uncorrected misstatements and aggregated by you during the current engagement are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the applicable opinion units and to the financial statements as a whole.
11. The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed.
12. All component units, as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, are included and other joint ventures and related organizations are properly disclosed.
13. All funds and activities are properly classified.
14. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34 and GASB Statement No. 65 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are considered important to financial statement users.
15. All components of net position, nonspendable fund balance, and restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
16. Our policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position/fund balance are available is appropriately disclosed and net position/fund balance is properly recognized under the policy.
17. All revenues within the statement of activities have been properly classified as program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
18. All expenses have been properly classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations, if any, have been made on a reasonable basis.
19. All interfund and intra-entity transactions and balances have been properly classified and reported.
20. Special items and extraordinary items have been properly classified and reported.
21. Deposit and investment risks have been properly and fully disclosed.
22. With respect to your assistance in the preparation of the Notes to the Financial Statements and the Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability, we have performed the following:
 - a. Made all management decisions and performed all management functions;
 - b. Assigned a competent individual to oversee the services;
 - c. Evaluated the adequacy of the services performed;
 - d. Evaluated and accepted responsibility for the result of the service performed; and
 - e. Established and maintained internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.
23. We have provided you with:

- a. Access to all information, of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above, such as records, documentation, meeting minutes,⁷ and other matters;
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
24. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
25. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
- a. Management;
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
26. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, vendors, regulators, or others.
27. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
28. We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
29. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with or deficiencies in accounting, internal control, or financial reporting practices.
30. The County has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
31. We have disclosed to you all guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the County is contingently liable.
32. We have disclosed to you all significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 (GASB-62), *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*. Significant estimates are estimates at the balance sheet date that could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets or geographic areas for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
33. We have identified and disclosed to you the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
34. There are no:
- a. Violations or possible violations of laws or regulations, or provisions of contracts or grant agreements whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, including applicable budget laws and regulations.
 - b. Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB-62.
 - c. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB-62
 - d. Restrictions, assignments or commitments of fund equity that were not properly authorized and approved.

35. The County has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset or future revenue been pledged as collateral, except as disclosed to you.
36. We have complied with all aspects of grant agreements and other contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.

Shawn Hostler, Brookings County Commission
Chairperson

Lori Schultz, Brookings County
Finance Officer