REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD

# Minimum Criteria for Commissioners' Career Development Plan

TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



# **HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 18**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND 2004

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia (CORVa) asked the 2001 General Assembly to direct the Compensation Board to develop a career development plan (CDP) for Commissioners of the Revenue (COR). This directive was not mandated by the 2001 General Assembly due to the budget impasse. Therefore, the CORVa designated a task force comprised of Commissioners of the Revenue to develop the criteria for participation in a CDP. The CORVa sought input from the Compensation Board throughout the development process. In addition, the CORVa set forth to determine the costs for such a plan. The recommendations of the CORVa task force set specific criteria for participation in a CDP for CORVa.

- The COR must achieve certification as a Certified COR from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia;
- The minimum number of Commissioner of the Revenue employees required to enroll and participate in the Professional Development Program is determined by population size of the respective locality:

Locality Population	Req'd. Min. # of Employees Participating
Less than 19,999	1
20,000-39,999	2
40,000-69,999	3
70,000-99,999	4
100,000-174,999	5
175,000-249,999	6
250,000 and over	7

• The COR must certify the adoption of the following policies and/or procedures:

#### • Appeals Process:

- <u>BPOL</u> <u>Appeals</u>: 100% of all written appeals of assessment for BPOL are issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information from the Attorney General, Department of Taxation, and taxpayer.
- <u>Real Estate Appeals</u>: 100% of all written appeals of assessment for Real Estate are issued a Final Determination by the Commissioner of the Revenue within 90 days from the date of receipt of the appeal.
- <u>Tangible Personal Property Tax Appeals and other Local Option Tax</u> <u>Appeals</u>: 100% of all written appeals of Tangible Personal Property and other Local Option Tax assessments are issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information.

- <u>Assessment Methodology</u>: Establish, implement and maintain a professional, uniform and equitable assessment policy.
- <u>Audit</u>: Establish, implement and maintain an objective and systematic process of discovering, accumulating and evaluating financial records and other evidence in order to determine conformity of ad valorem and excise tax filings with the applicable state and local tax laws.
- o Confidentiality Policy:
  - Implement a confidentiality statement to be signed by all employees acknowledging their understanding of <u>Code of Virginia</u> §58.1-3.
  - Develop and implement a process for investigating employee breeches of confidentiality.
- **<u>Customer Service</u>**: Establish, implement and maintain a Customer Service Policy for the Office of Commissioner of the Revenue.
- <u>Ethics</u>: Acknowledge adherence to, and practice of, the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO).
- **FOIA**: Establish, implement and maintain a written procedure for handling Freedom of Information requests.
- Local Option Taxes: Establish, implement and maintain a written Policies and Procedures Manual for all Local Option Taxes, including, but not limited to Merchants Capital, Utility Tax, Meals Tax, Transient Occupancy Tax, Admissions Tax, and Cigarette Tax.
- <u>Personal Property Book</u>: Present personal property book to the Treasurer of the locality listing all accounts that have been established by September 1 of each year or within 90 days from the date the rate of tax on personal property has been determined. The Department of Taxation may, for good cause, extend the time of delivery for such books with concurrence of the COR and the locality Treasurer.
- <u>Personnel Policy</u>: Establish, implement, and/or maintain a Personnel Policy for the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.
- State Income Tax:
  - Maintain access to the Department of Taxation State Tax Accounting & Reporting System (STARS).
  - Process State Income Tax Returns and Estimated Income Tax payments as required per Department of Taxation Procedures Pamphlet.
  - Meet the Disclosure, Security and Confidentiality requirements as imposed by the Department of Taxation.

- o <u>Technology</u>:
  - Implement the minimum technological methods and procedures required to perform the duties of the Commissioner of the Revenue.
  - Establish a written plan to outline implementation of the optional criteria.
- Upon certification of completion of the above criteria, the COR salary supplement will be based upon the levels of service offered by that COR for his/her locality and will be in accordance with the following schedule:
  - **4.7%** increase for all CORs who meet the outlined criteria and provide the base duties as prescribed by the <u>Code of Virginia</u>.
  - **2.3%** *additional* increase for all CORs who provide State Income Tax <u>or</u> Real Estate services. (Total 7.0% increase.)
  - **2.3%** *additional* increase for all CORs who provide State Income Tax <u>and</u> Real Estate services. (**Total 9.3% increase**.)

The 2004 General Assembly approved the COR CDP and directed the Compensation Board to develop minimum criteria for the program. The Compensation Board approved the previously referred minimum criteria on June 23, 2004. The 2004 General Assembly approved \$84,272 in FY05 and \$198,978 in FY06 to fund the COR CDP. Based upon the input of the CORVa, approximately 22% of CORs will be eligible to participate the first year for a cost of \$96,236 and 28% of CORs will be eligible to participate the second year for a cost of \$230,895.

## STUDY DEFINITIONS AND PARTICIPANTS

This study addresses a Career Development Plan (CDP) for Commissioners of the Revenue (COR). A separate study addresses the Career Development Plan (CDP) for Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue. The CORVa has adopted a procedure by which CORs could certify their participation in a CDP that meets the Compensation Board's minimum criteria. Further, the Compensation Board has provided a model plan that could be adopted CORs.

#### STUDY DEFINITIONS:

*Employee* shall mean for the purposes of this study, any position reimbursed by the Compensation Board in a COR's office **OR**, any full-time position that is 100% funded by the locality. The COR must follow the guidelines outlined below in determining those employees eligible to participate in the Deputy Career Development Program.

*Commissioner of the Revenue* shall mean, for the purposes of this study, any elected or appointed COR of a city or county in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*Participating and Enrolled* shall mean, for the purposes of this study, successful completion of at least one required course in a 12-month period of time, the accumulation of at least 5 points/year in Education and Experience, 4 points/year in Service to the Association and 5 points/year in Continuing Education.

#### TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS:

Bruce W. Haynes, Executive Secretary, Compensation Board Richard Lampman, Policy and Planning Manager, Compensation Board Charlotte Luck, Senior Budget Analyst, Compensation Board Sharon Woo, Senior Fiscal Technician, Compensation Board Paige Curtis, Senior Fiscal Technician, Compensation Board Honorable Brenda B. Rickman, President, Commissioner of the Revenue Association of Virginia Honorable Delmer Wilson, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Commissioner of the Revenue Assoc. of Virginia Honorable Sharon M. McDonald, Commissioner of the Revenue, Norfolk Honorable Anita French, Commissioner of the Revenue, Cumberland County Honorable Lois Jacob, Commissioner of the Revenue, Fredericksburg Honorable Ellen Murphy, Commissioner of the Revenue, Frederick County Honorable Sonny Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, Lancaster County Honorable Todd Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, Northumberland County Honorable Carol Gawen, Commissioner of the Revenue, Westmoreland County Honorable Richard Bradshaw, Commissioner of the Revenue, James City County Honorable Sherman Holland, Commissioner of the Revenue, Roanoke Honorable Ray A. Conner, Commissioner of the Revenue, Chesapeake Honorable G. Ray Ergenbright, Commissioner of the Revenue, Staunton Honorable Deborah M. Marsten, Commissioner of the Revenue, Dinwiddie County Honorable Maynard Sayers, Commissioner of the Revenue, Pulaski County Honorable John Smedley, Commissioner of the Revenue, Warren County

Honorable Martha Swenson, Commissioner of the Revenue, Greensville, County W. Forrest Matthews, Jr. Director of Finance, Henrico County Larry Adams, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia Marlene Yates, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA OTHER THAN COMMISSIONERS OF THE REVENUE

Historically, the Constitutional Officers of Virginia have improved their skills and overall performance through ongoing regional and state educational seminars and meetings. In the absence of a formalized Career Development Plan, Commissioners of the Revenue and other Virginia Constitutional Officers benefited from ongoing educational programs offered and supported by state and national organizations. These organizations included: The Virginia Bar Association, the Government Finance Officers Association, Virginia Association of Local Elected Constitutional Officers (VALECO), International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), Virginia Association of Assessing Officers (VAAO), the Virginia State Police, the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Virginia Polytechnic and State University, University of Virginia, the Internal Revenue Service, the Virginia Department of Taxation, the Virginia State Compensation Board and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

In recent years, local government has become more sophisticated and technology has enabled more citizens and taxpayers to have access to more governmental information. In order to ensure greater accountability with the citizenry and improved uniformity with respect to office procedures, Constitutional Officers throughout the Commonwealth (which includes Commissioners of the Revenue, Treasurers, Commonwealth Attorneys, Sheriffs, and Clerks of the Circuit Court) have moved toward a more formalized CDP.

In 1997, the Virginia General Assembly directed the Compensation Board, in cooperation with the Commonwealth's Attorneys Services Council, to create a task force that would develop criteria for a formal training program for Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys. Part of the impetus for the development of this program was to offer it as a vehicle to encourage educational improvement, plus provide salary supplements to those completing the program. The following year the General Assembly approved the proposals in the interest of maintaining stability in the workforce in these offices and improving the service provided by these offices.

While Sheriff's deputies had long attended special police schools and firearms training, they too received assistance and support from the Virginia General Assembly and the Compensation Board through the authorization of a formal career development program. The plan is designed to encourage Sheriff Deputies to improve their skills, which enhances job performance. This program not only benefits the deputies but also the localities for which they work.

In 2000 the Virginia General Assembly approved a Career Development Plan for Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers. This plan requires the successful completion of certain educational courses as well as the maintenance of certain standards of accountability. Salary compensation for Treasurers successfully mastering the plan's requirements is available. Compensation was approved by the 2004 General Assembly for Treasurer Deputies.

The Virginia Court Clerk's Association began a certification program in 1991 for Clerks and in 1993 for Deputy Clerks. This plan has not been certified by the Virginia General Assembly and does not provide for salary supplements. However, certification criteria include eligibility, standards of accountability, review, and professional designation.

# COMPENSATION BOARD MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR COMMISSIONERS' OF THE REVENUE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

#### Background

For over 30 years, Commissioners of the Revenue throughout the Commonwealth have been committed to ongoing education and professional improvement. Early in this process the CORVa members sought the advice and expertise of taxation experts from the IRS and the Virginia Department of Taxation. However, in the late 1980's it was determined that formalization of a certification program was not only desirable, but also necessary. In 1989, the CORVa launched its first professional certification program that included requirements for education, service to the Association, and specialized class offerings.

The program was enhanced in 1997 to include more formal educational requirements. In November 2000 further enhancements were made to the program requiring successful completion of certain educational courses and the implementation of numerous standards of accountability to ensure uniform producers throughout the Commonwealth.

#### Analysis

The Compensation Board, with input from the Commissioner of the Revenue of Virginia Association and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, has approved the following minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan.

## COMPENSATION BOARD MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR COMMISSIONERS' CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### Training and Development

The COR must achieve and maintain Certification administered by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

#### Staff Development and Training

The COR must submit a letter of recommendation and certification of continued participation in the CDP for each employee enrolled in the CDP. The minimum number of employees required to participate in the CDP is determined by population size:

Locality Population	Req'd. Min. # of Employees Participating
Less than 19,999	1
20,000-39,999	2
40,000-69,999	3
70,000-99,999	4
100,000-174,999	5
175,000-249,999	6
250,000 and over	7

#### Administrative Policies

#### Appeals Process:

- 100% of all written appeals of assessment for BPOL are issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information from the Attorney General, Department of Taxation, and client.
- 100% of all written appeals of assessment for Real Estate are issued a Final Determination by the Commissioner of the Revenue within 90 days from the date of receipt of the appeal.
- 100% of all written appeals of Tangible Personal Property and other Local Option Tax assessments are issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information.

#### **Assessment Methodology:**

• Establish, implement and maintain a professional, uniform and equitable assessment policy.

#### Audit:

• Establish, implement and maintain an objective and systematic process of discovering, accumulating and evaluating financial records and other evidence in order to determine conformity of ad valorem and excise tax filings with the applicable state and local tax laws.

#### **Confidentiality Policy:**

- Establish, implement and maintain a confidentiality statement to be signed by all employees acknowledging their understanding of <u>Code of Virginia</u> §58.1-3.
- Establish, implement and maintain a process for investigating employee breeches of confidentiality.

#### **Customer Service:**

• Establish, implement and maintain a Customer Service Policy for the Office of Commissioner of the Revenue.

#### Ethics:

• Acknowledge adherence to, and practice of, the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO.)

#### FOIA:

• Establish, implement and maintain a written procedure for handling Freedom of Information requests.

#### Local Option Taxes:

- Establish, implement, and maintain a process of discovering and implementing uniform practices for the filing, abatement and appeals of Local Option Taxes.
- These taxes include: Merchants Capital, Utility Taxes, Meals Tax, Transient Occupancy Tax, Admissions Tax, and Cigarette Tax.

#### Personal Property Book:

 Presented the personal property book to the Treasurer of the locality listing all accounts that have been established by September 1 of each year or within 90 days from the date the rate of tax on personal property has been determined. The Department of Taxation may, for good cause, extend the time of delivery for such books with concurrence of the COR and the locality Treasurer.

#### **Personnel Policy:**

• Establish, implement, and maintain a Personnel Policy for the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

#### State Income Tax:

- Maintain access to the Department of Taxation State Tax Accounting & Reporting System (STARS).
- Process State Income Tax Returns and Estimated Income Tax payments as required per Department of Taxation Procedures Pamphlet.
- Meet the Disclosure, Security and Confidentiality requirements as imposed by the Department of Taxation.

#### Technology:

- Implement the minimum technological methods and procedures required to perform the duties of the Commissioner of the Revenue.
- Establish a written plan to outline implementation of the optional criteria.

#### Effective Dates

This policy and the procedures are effective June 23, 2004, and shall remain in effect unless further amended by the Compensation Board.

#### <u>Authority</u>

This policy and procedures have been adopted by the Compensation Board in accordance with §15.2-1636.8, et seq., <u>Code of Virginia</u>, and the 2004 Appropriation Act, Item 70.

#### <u>Approval</u>

Frank Drew, Chairman

<u>June 23, 2004</u> Date

## CERTIFICATION OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMISSIONERS OF THE REVENUE

Commissioner of the Revenue

Locality

I hereby certify that I have met or exceeded the following criteria (*initial each item below*):

- I have achieved certification from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.
- The population of my locality is \_\_\_\_\_. I certify that the following employees are participating and enrolled in the Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue program administered by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.
- I certify that 100% of all written appeals of assessment for BPOL received by my office in the past twelve months were issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information from the Attorney General, Department of Taxation, and client.
- I certify that 100% of all written appeals of assessment of Tangible Personal Property and other Local Option Tax assessments received by my office in the past twelve months were issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of all requested information.
- I certify that I have established and implemented, and that I maintain, a professional, uniform and equitable assessment policy in accordance with the guidelines provided in the COR CDP.
- I certify that I have established and implemented, and that I maintain, an objective and systematic process of discovering, accumulating and evaluating financial records and other evidence in order to determine conformity of ad valorem and excise tax filings with the applicable state and local tax laws.
- I certify that I have a written Confidentiality Policy, and that I have established a process for investigating employee breeches of confidentiality.
- I certify that I have a written Customer Service Policy.
- I certify adherence to, and practice of, the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct of the IAAO.

- I certify that I have implemented a written procedure for handling Freedom of Information requests.
- I certify that I have implemented a process of discovering and applying uniform practices for the filing, abatement and appeals of all Local Option Taxes that are assessed by my locality.
- I certify that my personal property book was presented to the Treasurer of my locality listing all accounts that were established by September 1 of this year or within 90 days from the date the rate of tax on personal property was determined. (Note: If the Department of Taxation extended the time of delivery for such books, please attach correspondence providing verification for the extension.)
- I certify that I have developed and implemented written policies consistent with state and federal law addressing leave and attendance, equal opportunity, sexual harassment, recruitment and selection and employee disciplinary procedures or adopted local government policies that meet the same standard.
- I certify that I have implemented the minimum basic technological methods and procedures required to perform the duties of the Commissioner of the Revenue. I further certify that I have a written plan in place to outline implementation of the optional criteria.
- I certify that I have adopted the Compensation Board's minimum criteria for employee evaluation plans, delegation of classification authority, and Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue Career Development Plans.
- I certify that I meet the minimum criteria for COR CDP as established herein. I certify that I
  provide the following additional services:
  - \_\_\_\_ I certify that 100% of all written appeals of assessment for Real Estate received by my office in the past twelve months were issued a Final Determination within 90 days from the date of receipt of the appeal.
  - \_\_\_\_ I certify that I have accomplished the following with respect to the processing of State Income Tax returns:
    - Maintain access to the Department of Taxation State Tax Accounting & Reporting System (STARS).
    - Process State Income Tax Returns and Estimated Income Tax payments as required per Department of Taxation Procedures Pamphlet.
    - Met the Disclosure, Security and Confidentiality requirements as imposed by the Department of Taxation.

I agree to provide such documentation as necessary to substantiate this certification upon request of the Compensation Board, my governing body, the CORVa Certification Oversight Committee or any individual or organization covered under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. I have provided a copy of this certification to my governing body.

Signature of Commissioner of the Revenue

Date

Appendix A

## <u>Costs</u>

The CRAVa estimates that 29 officers at a cost of \$96,168 in FY05, and 35 officers at a cost of \$230,896 in FY06, will meet the criteria of the Commissioners' Career Development Plan. The 2004 Appropriation Act includes funding of \$84,272 in FY05 and \$198,978 in FY06.

#### Appendix B

### Appropriation Act Language

#### Item 70 #1c

1. Out of the amounts in this Item shall be provided \$76,888 in the first year and \$185,909 in the second year from the general fund for the Compensation Board to establish a Commissioners' Career Development Plan. The Compensation Board shall adopt minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan by August 1, 2004. The minimum criteria shall include initial and continuing education requirements for the Commissioners of the Revenue and Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue; specify the base duties, state income tax duties, and real estate services performed by Commissioners to be considered as part of the Career Development Plan; and the adoption of certain Standards of Accountability to be attained by the Commissioners of the Revenue with respect to how the Commissioners' offices are managed and operated. The Compensation Board shall submit the minimum criteria for Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than August 15, 2004.

2. Following receipt of the Commissioner's certification that the minimum requirements of the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan have been met, and provided that such certification is received by the Compensation Board on or before November 1, 2004, the Compensation Board shall increase the annual salary shown in Paragraph A of this Item by the amount shown herein for a 12-month period effective December 1, 2004. Subsequent certifications shall be submitted by Commissioners of the Revenue as part of their annual budget request to the Compensation Board on February 1 of each year, with the salary increase becoming effective on the following December 1st for a 12-month period. The salary supplement will be based upon the levels of service offered by the Commissioner of the Revenue for his/her locality and will be in accordance with the following schedule:

a. 4.7 per cent increase for all Commissioners of the Revenue who certify their compliance with the established minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan;

b. 2.3 per cent additional increase for all Commissioners of the Revenue who certify their compliance with the established minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan and provide State Income Tax or Real Estate services as described in the minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan; and

c. 2.3 per cent additional increase for all Commissioners of the Revenue who certify their compliance with the established minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan and provide State Income Tax and Real Estate services, as described in the minimum criteria for the Commissioners of the Revenue Career Development Plan.

D.1. Out of the amounts in this Item shall be provided \$20,273 in the first year and \$52,571 in the second year from the general fund for the Compensation Board to implement a Deputy Commissioners' Career Development Plan. The Compensation Board shall adopt minimum criteria for the Deputy Commissioners' Career Development Plan by July 15, 2004. The minimum criteria shall include initial and continuing education requirements for

the Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue; specify the base duties, state income tax duties, and real estate services performed by Commissioners' offices to be considered as part of the Career Development Plan; and the adoption of certain Standards of Accountability to be attained by the Deputy Commissioners of the Revenue. The Compensation Board shall submit the minimum criteria for Deputy Commissioners of the House Revenue Career Development Plan to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than August 15, 2004.

2. For each Deputy Commissioner selected by the Commissioner of the Revenue for participation in the Career Development Plan, the Compensation Board shall increase the annual salary established for that position by 9.3 per cent effective December 1, following receipt of the Commissioner of the Revenue's certification that the minimum requirements of the Deputy Commissioners' Career Development Plan have been met, and provided that such certification is submitted by the Commissioner of the Revenue as part of the annual budget request to the Compensation Board on February 1st of each year. The first period for Commissioners of the Revenue to make this certification and select deputy commissioners for participation in the Career Development Plan will be on the budget request submitted to the Compensation Board on or before February 1, 2004, for a salary increase effective date of December 1, 2004. Subsequent new certifications and selections for participation will occur each year as a part of the annual budget request submission on or before February 1st of each year, for an effective date of salary increase of the following December 1st.".

Waddell\CommRev\June23,04 COR Career Development Program

### Comments & Responses



BRUCE W. HAYNES EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JAMES W. MATTHEWS

JUNE R. FUNKHOUSER CHAIRMAN

DANNY M. PAYNE W. J. KUCHARSKI ELOFFICIO MEMBERS

## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

COMPENSATION BOARD

P.O. BOX 710 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-0710 October 24, 2001

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY T 2 6 2001

The Honorable Sharon M. McDonald Commissioner of the Revenue, City of Norfolk P.O. Box 2260 Norfolk, VA 23501-2260

Dear Ms. McDonald:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review the draft Commissioner of the Revenue and Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue Career Development Plans. The draft proposals appear to meet and in some cases exceed the minimum requirements for Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers Career Development Plans previously approved by the Compensation Board. The Compensation Board has no comments or suggestions for changes.

Compensation Board staff will be pleased to assist the Commissioner of the Revenue Association of Virginia in determining the costs of these proposals.

Sincerely,

June R. Funkhouser Chairman

Bruce W. Haynes Executive Secretary

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 c: Honorable Brenda B. Rickman, President, Commissioner of the Revenue Association of Virginia James W. Matthews, Assistant Executive Secretary Richard A. Lampman, Policy and Planning Manager Sharon V. Woo, Senior Fiscal Technician Charlotte W. Luck, Senior Management Analyst

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