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**ABO ISSUES REPORT DETAILING PUBLIC AUTHORITY COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOUNTABILITY
AND TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS**

**Findings show that authorities need to be more diligent in ensuring all required materials are
available to the public online**

**ABO issues updated guidance to help improve compliance and announces it will provide
additional training**

The Authorities Budget Office (ABO) released a [Special Report](#) today detailing the findings of ABO's three year review of public authorities compliance with the accountability and transparency laws that require information about public authority operations and finances be available to the public online. The findings show mixed success with compliance and identified several areas where authorities must do more to make information available to the public.

"The law requires that public authorities are transparent to the public about their activities so that taxpayers may understand how the authorities are spending public money," said Joshua Norkin, Director of the Authorities Budget Office. "Today, we are issuing updated guidance along with our Special Report to help public authorities meet these requirements and fulfill their obligations to the public."

The ABO regularly conducts reviews of public authority websites on a rolling basis. Between May 2021 and June 2024, the ABO reviewed the websites of 51 public authorities to determine compliance with laws requiring the public disclosure of certain information on authority websites. Each of the 51 reviews are available on the [ABO's website](#). This report discusses overall compliance with the law and identifies several areas in which authorities are largely failing to meet their disclosure obligations. For example, 83 percent of industrial development agencies

(IDAs) reviewed are failing to make publicly available critical documentation about sales tax exemptions they are distributing.

Notably, the results of the transparency reviews indicated low compliance with authorities posting certain information. Authorities must take steps to ensure that information is an easily accessible location online. The ABO has determined that additional guidance is needed for the following information required to be posted online:

- IDAs - Reporting Sale Tax Recapture – Form ST-62
- Committee Meetings
- Annual Performance Evaluation Indicating Status of Performance Measures
- Investment Report
- IDAs – Project Documents for Active Projects
- IDAs - Assessment of the Progress of Active Projects

The ABO has also provided [updated guidance](#) to help authorities address areas of problematic compliance and will make additional training available to authorities in February 2026.

In September, the ABO issued the agency's [19th Annual Report](#) providing detailed information about public authorities across New York.

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