

**From:** dmccullars@gmail.com  
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**To:** Director - GASB  
**Subject:** Comment on Projection of Financial Inflows and Outflows...RSI

I am the finance director of a municipality with a total all fund budget of about \$35,000,000. I personally think this is a great idea. With the governance of cities, states, and counties in a situation whereby often the most talented in a community are not drawn to public service (mainly locals), this project should give stakeholders an increased layer of assurance that the reporting and auditing is far-sighted enough to take long term obligations into account alongside short term decisions. I see this also as a tool of public policy. Politicians like to make short term and often short sighted decisions. It could help prevent overreach in expending funds by the governing bodies, without accounting for long term consequences. It could and likely would make it easier for governing bodies to make proper revenue decisions based on long term obligations, and take some political heat off. It would raise the finance department's profile, as projecting the future is done alongside historical reporting. A check on long term obligations should be necessary before any decision, and this will make all think a little deeper. Yet, this project does not appear to rise to the point of speculation (prediction). In short and quite frankly, let's dumb down these financials enough so even the governing bodies can understand the consequence of actions. I don't know that the GASB has historically factored the lack of sophistication with elected officials. An audit presentation is an exercise in futility. Just too much. They can't begin to understand the current structure. Finance is becoming more and more important to keeping the train on the rail. Especially as a dearth of professional public administrators continues to be a substantial issue.

The negative would seem to be the consequence of increased public or potential legal (unlikely) liability for finance professionals. I understand it is only projecting known issues, but I can see the public wanting to know why finance did not step in and stop lame brain decisions by elected officials. Personally, I can handle it. I work in chaos anyway and interact quite frequently with the press. But, I can see many other financial professionals having an issue here.

But, overall, the gain to the user and therefore the more confidence in the public entity outweighs significantly any negative consequence. Perhaps the statement could address the perceived public "liability" and responsibility of financial statement issuers as this projection becomes a focus of public reporting. Quite sure Standard and Poors is far more interested in the future than the past.

Respectfully submitted,

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