

State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: Aug. 17, 2010

Comptroller Makes Information about Missing Funds in County Governments Available Online

As part of a continuing effort to provide greater transparency in government, Comptroller Justin P. Wilson is making information about cash shortages reflected in the annual financial reports and special reports of Tennessee's 95 counties available online.

The report provides information about cash shortages and other thefts reported in the annual financial reports for the year ended June 30, 2009 and certain special reports for Tennessee's 89 county governments audited by the Comptroller's Division of County Audit and for six counties audited by private accounting firms.

In addition to providing information about the amounts of the cash shortages in each county, the report also provides explanations about how the shortages were discovered, why they occurred, what steps have been taken to correct the problems and any judicial actions resulting from the cash shortages.

"This report serves a dual purpose," Comptroller Wilson said. "First of all, it gives Tennesseans easy access to important financial information about their county governments, which serves the purpose of increasing transparency in government. Also, bringing this information to light may help reduce fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars in the future, which is one of the primary missions of the Comptroller's office."

The cash shortage report can be viewed online at: http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/CA/2009/CashShortagesReport09.pdf

-30-

Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (615) 253-2668 or blake.fontenay@tn.gov