

# GOLDEN: State audits generally haven't paid off

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Guadagno, facing daunting odds in her quest to succeed Gov. Chris Christie, would confront stiff resistance to carrying out an audit similar to that of her three predecessors.

As governor, it would be within her authority to create a commission by executive order, for instance, but would, in all probability, face a Democratically controlled Legislature with little appetite for accepting any of the commission's findings.

The audit recommendation is but one component of her overall property tax relief program and not intended to generate revenue sufficient to cover its ultimate cost.

There is nothing inherently damaging about the idea of internally scrutinizing government operations and Guadagno should be recognized for opening the discussion.

At the same time, one cannot be optimistic about the outcome. It has crashed on the jagged rocks of political reality in the past and would likely meet the same fate again.

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