



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Honorable Members of the
Board of Supervisors
County of Dane
Madison, Wisconsin

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Dane, Wisconsin, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County of Dane's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Dane County Housing Authority, the discretely presented component unit of the County of Dane. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Dane County Housing Authority, is based on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Dane, Wisconsin at December 31, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have issued a report on our consideration of the County of Dane's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

To the Honorable Members of the
Board of Supervisors
County of Dane, Wisconsin

The management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 17 through 29 and 97 through 101 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we and the other auditors did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County of Dane's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules as listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The "Letter of Transmittal" and "Statistical Section" listed in the accompanying table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the County of Dane. The information has not been audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion on such information.

Vickow, Kraus & Company, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
April 30, 2004