




JASON E. MUMPOWER  
*Comptroller*

August 11, 2023

TO: All Counties and Municipalities

FROM: Jason E. Mumpower  
Comptroller of the Treasury 

SUBJECT: Investment in Debt Securities of the United States Government

On Tuesday, August 2, 2023, Fitch Ratings (Fitch) downgraded their rating for United States debt securities from its highest level of “AAA” to “AA+”. Fitch joins S&P Global Ratings (S&P) in lowering its credit rating for the United States. Fitch, along with S&P and Moody’s evaluate the credit worthiness for governments and businesses.

Due to the action of Fitch, several Tennessee counties and municipalities may now be in non-compliance with either 5-8-301(b)(6) or 6-56-106(a)(2), *Tennessee Code Annotated*.

The Comptroller’s Office recommends local governments suspend investing in these debt securities until such a time as the securities are again rated in the highest category by at least two (2) of the nationally recognized rating services.

If you have any questions, please contact this office. Counties can contact Mr. Bryan Burklin, Assistant Director, by e-mail at [Bryan.Burklin@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Bryan.Burklin@cot.tn.gov). Municipalities can contact Ms. Jean Suh, Contract Audit Review Manager, by e-mail at [Jean.Suh@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jean.Suh@cot.tn.gov). Both can be reached by phone at 615.401.7841.