

PUBLICATION OF REDACTED VERSION
OF THE OEIG FOR THE AGENCIES UNDER THE GOVERNOR
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Number: 22-02932

Subject(s): Daniel Pittman

Below is the redacted version of an investigative summary report issued by the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. Pursuant to section 20-50 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Act) (5 ILCS 430/20-50), a summary report of an investigation is required to be issued by an executive inspector general when, and only when, at the conclusion of investigation, the executive inspector general determines reasonable cause exists to believe a violation has occurred. If a complaint is not to be filed with the Executive Ethics Commission (Commission) for adjudication of the alleged violation, the Act further requires the executive inspector general to deliver to the Commission a statement setting forth the basis for the decision not to file a complaint and a copy of the summary report of the investigation and of the response from the ultimate jurisdictional authority or agency head regarding the summary report. 5 ILCS 430/20-50(c-5). The Act requires that some summary reports be made available to the public and authorizes the Commission to make others available. 5 ILCS 430/20-52. Before making them available, however, the Commission is to redact from them information that may reveal the identity of witnesses, complainants, or informants and may redact “any other information it believes should not be made public.” 5 ILCS 430/20-52(b).

Some summary reports delivered to the Commission may contain a mix of information relating to allegations with respect to which the executive inspector general did and did not determine reasonable cause existed to believe a violation occurred. In those situations, the Commission may redact information relating to those allegations with respect to which the existence of reasonable cause was not determined.

The Commission exercises its publication responsibility with great caution and seeks to balance the sometimes-competing interests of transparency and fairness to the accused and others uninvolved. To balance these interests, the Commission has redacted certain information contained in this report and identified where said redactions have taken place and inserted clarifying edits as marked. Publication of a summary report of an investigation, whether redacted or not, is made

with the understanding that the subject or subjects of the investigation may not have had the opportunity to rebut the report's factual allegations or legal conclusions before issuance of the report. Moreover, there has not been, nor will there be, an opportunity for the subject to contest or adjudicate them before the Commission. The subject merely has the opportunity to submit a response for publication with the report.

The Commission received this report and a response from the ultimate jurisdictional authority and/or agency in this matter from the Agencies of the Illinois Governor Office of Executive Inspector General ("OEIG"). The Commission, pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52, redacted the OEIG's final report and responses and mailed copies of the redacted version and responses to the Attorney General, the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor, and each subject.

The Commission reviewed all suggestions received and makes this document available pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52. By publishing the below redacted summary report, the Commission neither makes nor adopts any determination of fact or conclusions of law for or against any individual or entity referenced therein.

– THE REDACTED VERSION OF THE EIG'S SUMMARY REPORT
BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE –

I. ALLEGATIONS

On November 22, 2022, the Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) received an anonymous complaint against Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) Public Service Administrator Daniel Pittman. The complaint alleged that, while previously employed as a Public Service Administrator at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), Mr. Pittman used State time and resources for his campaign for Sangamon County Treasurer.¹ [Redacted].²

II. BACKGROUND

Daniel Pittman was an Administrative Assistant 2 with HFS beginning on July 1, 2019, and was promoted within HFS to a Public Service Administrator position with the Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services on July 1, 2020. Mr. Pittman worked in that position until May 31, 2023, at which time he transferred to DoIT, where he has worked until the present. [HFS Employee 1] has worked for HFS since [Redacted], and was the [Redacted] and Mr. Pittman's direct supervisor during the time Mr. Pittman worked in that Bureau.

III. INVESTIGATION

A. Applicable Law And HFS Policies

The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Ethics Act) prohibits State employees from intentionally performing certain political activities during any compensated time, aside from vacation, personal, or compensatory time, including: “preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event; soliciting contributions...; surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters...; soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office...; initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office...; campaigning for any elective office...; [or] managing or working on a campaign for elective office.”³ The Ethics Act also prohibits the solicitation, acceptance, offering, or making, of contributions by public officials, State employees, or candidates for elective office, on State property.⁴ The HFS Employee Handbook also contains prohibitions on political activity and contributions on compensated time and State property, which refer to and closely mirror those found in the Ethics Act.⁵

B. Campaigns for Office

The Illinois State Board of Elections website reflects that Mr. Pittman ran for Sangamon County Treasurer in 2022, won the June 28, 2022 general primary as a “challenger,” and lost in the November 8, 2022 general election.⁶ It also reflects that Mr. Pittman registered to run for City

¹ [Redacted].

² [Redacted].

³ 5 ILCS 430/1-5, 5/15.

⁴ 5 ILCS 430/5-35.

⁵ HFS Employee Handbook, §605.2.

⁶<https://www.elections.il.gov/CampaignDisclosure/CandidateDetailCD.aspx?ID=v5K7s5Kiu6scwrkgwtCFIlg%3d%d> (last visited February 14, 2024).

of Springfield Ward 6 Alderman in 2023, but a post on his campaign Instagram account indicated that he withdrew on January 1, 2023.⁷ HFS records reflect that Mr. Pittman submitted Ethics Guidance Request Forms and received approval to run for Sangamon County Treasurer and to run for Springfield Ward 6 Alderman. Sangamon County Clerk records reflect that Mr. Pittman was appointed to a Democratic Precinct Committee person position on February 6, 2023, filling a 2022 through 2024 term, and was elected to a new two-year term in an uncontested race on March 19, 2024.⁸ The OEIG also identified various social media accounts related to Mr. Pittman's campaigns.⁹

C. Mr. Pittman's HFS Work Hours And Break Times

HFS records reflect that Mr. Pittman's work hours at HFS were Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. The HFS Employee Handbook reflects that employees also receive two 15-minute breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.¹⁰ Mr. Pittman's HFS timesheets did not reflect when he took breaks, and neither his timesheets nor personnel file indicated what days he worked remotely.

D. Interviews Of HFS Coworkers

The OEIG interviewed some employees it identified as Mr. Pittman's HFS coworkers, including Public Service Administrator [HFS Employee 2], Executive Secretary I [HFS Employee 3], Office Assistant [HFS Employee 4], and Medical Assistant Consultant II [HFS Employee 5].¹¹

1. Interview of [HFS Employee 2]

Public Service Administrator [HFS Employee 2] was interviewed on June 12, 2023. [HFS Employee 2] said that she and Mr. Pittman worked a hybrid schedule when he worked at HFS, and she had frequent interactions with Mr. Pittman in the office. [HFS Employee 2] said that Mr. Pittman asked her to donate to his Treasurer campaign while at the office, and sent her a donation link by text message, which she then used to donate to his campaign. [HFS Employee 2] said that Mr. Pittman also frequently spoke about his Treasurer campaign at work, and that Mr. Pittman once told the office that everyone was invited to a political fundraiser at a bar after hours. [HFS Employee 2] said that she once heard Mr. Pittman answer a call in the office, wherein Mr. Pittman was discussing an incident where someone threatened him while he was door-to-door campaigning. [HFS Employee 2] said that she did not bring such activity to [HFS Employee 1]'s attention, and said she doubted [HFS Employee 1] would have been aware of it, because he never came out of his office.

⁷<https://www.elections.il.gov/CampaignDisclosure/CandidateDetailCD.aspx?ID=%2bNvHwYzAu5kYn8gzdkL%2fEA%3d%3d> (last visited February 14, 2024).

⁸ <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/IL/Sangamon/120366/web.317647/#!/detail/0596> (last visited March 26, 2024).

⁹ The social media accounts contained posts without timestamps, related to campaign events held outside of Mr. Pittman's work hours.

¹⁰ HFS Employee Handbook, §120.2.

¹¹ The OEIG also interviewed Public Service Administrator [HFS Employee 6] on August 28, 2023, but [HFS Employee 6] said that her office was on the other side of the floor from Mr. Pittman's, and she never heard or saw him conducting any campaign-related activity at work.

Following her interview, the OEIG requested any documents [HFS Employee 2] had related to the donation she discussed. [HFS Employee 2] provided a screenshot of a text message she told the OEIG was from Mr. Pittman, dated Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 9:57 a.m., wherein “Daniel” sent her a donation link for “Daniel Pittman for Sangamon County Treasurer,” through a political donation website. [HFS Employee 2] also provided screenshots from a money transfer app, reflecting that she had made a \$250 payment on March 29, 2022, at 10:44 a.m., through the same political donation website. The screenshots [HFS Employee 2] provided also reflected that on March 29, 2022, at 1:58 p.m., “Daniel” sent a message saying “You are something else. Thanks.” Mr. Pittman’s HFS timesheets for March 29, 2022 reflect that he was on State time from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2. Interview of [HFS Employee 3]

Executive Secretary I [HFS Employee 3] was interviewed on August 21, 2023. [HFS Employee 3] said that she generally works in the office every day, and Mr. Pittman did the same until some point in 2022, when he started working two days remotely per week. [HFS Employee 3] said that she saw Mr. Pittman pretty much every day while he worked at HFS, and interacted and spoke with him daily as well. [HFS Employee 3] said that Mr. Pittman sometimes spoke about his campaign, in what she characterized as a small talk type of way, but said she never heard him invite staff to a campaign event at a bar after work. [HFS Employee 3] said that she wrote Mr. Pittman a donation check, which she brought to the office, but could not recall what date that happened on. She said she was unable to recall whether she directly handed Mr. Pittman the check, or left it in an envelope on his desk. The ISBE website reflects that [HFS Employee 3] donated \$500 to Mr. Pittman’s campaign.

3. Interview of [HFS Employee 4]

Office Assistant [HFS Employee 4] was interviewed on February 2, 2023. In her interview, [HFS Employee 4] said that she works in the office every day but Friday, and that when Mr. Pittman worked at HFS he also worked in the office 3 or 4 times a week. [HFS Employee 4] said at that time she sat right next to Mr. Pittman’s office, and her cubicle was approximately 10 feet from his office door. [HFS Employee 4] said that she had heard him on the phone at work talking about political things, such as setting up meetings and planning a campaign event, almost every day between October and November 2022. She said that his conversations were usually in the early afternoon, and would last from 30 minutes to an hour. [HFS Employee 4] also said that Mr. Pittman frequently spoke about his Treasurer campaign at work. [HFS Employee 4] said that Mr. Pittman and [HFS Employee 5] would speak in front of her in the office two or three times a week about the campaign. She said that they spoke about things such as how many votes Mr. Pittman needed or what [HFS Employee 5] could do for political meetings taking place after hours, such as baking desserts, and that these conversations took place during working hours, not over lunch. She also said that [HFS Employee 5] frequently talked with her about Mr. Pittman’s campaign as well, bringing up things like how the debates and rallies were going.¹² She said she never brought Mr. Pittman’s political activity to [HFS Employee 1]’s attention.

¹² In her OEIG interview on August 24, 2023, [HFS Employee 5] denied ever talking with Mr. Pittman about his campaigns in the office, and said that she never saw or heard him doing campaign work in the office.

E. Mr. Pittman's Phone Records

The OEIG reviewed phone and text message records from Mr. Pittman's personal cellular phone, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.¹³ The OEIG identified calls with people associated with Mr. Pittman's campaign and other political people during times he reported working on his HFS timesheets, as reflected in the following chart.¹⁴ In the chart, only calls made during times when Mr. Pittman was listed as on State time were counted, and any calls when Mr. Pittman was using benefit time or off for lunch for the entirety of the call were excluded. A few calls occurred during both State time and benefit time, or Mr. Pittman's lunch as listed on his timesheets, and only the portion of those calls that occurred on State time was counted.

Individuals Called/Callers	Total calls	Total time (hour:min: sec)
Sangamon County Democratic Party Chair 1	31	0:55:46
Sangamon County Democratic Party Chair 2	11	0:32:27
Campaign Manager	49	5:53:17
Campaign Treasurer	2	0:5:10
Petition Circulator	5	1:08:53
Congressional Staffer 1	3	0:21:05
Congressional Staffer 2	1	0:14:20
Totals	102	9:10:58

F. Interview of Daniel Pittman

Mr. Pittman was interviewed on October 16, 2023. Mr. Pittman said he spent about 25-30 hours per week on campaign activities when he was in the "middle of it," and his activities generally included campaigning on foot, participating in parades, phone banking, and talking with voters. Mr. Pittman denied ever working on campaign activities on State time, including campaigning in the community, and said he had taken time off to work on his campaign when he needed to. When asked if his campaign for Treasurer came up in the office, Mr. Pittman said not at first, but once his ads came out, other employees started to bring it up, and he tried to avoid talking about it, but wanted to be nice as well. He said that he frequently told coworkers that he could not talk about campaigns at work, he would try to address any questions briefly, and would answer questions about how campaign events went simply by saying "fine." Mr. Pittman said that [HFS Employee 2] asked him how his campaigns were doing every day, and he told [HFS Employee 2], [HFS Employee 3], and [HFS Employee 5], multiple times, that he could not talk about it. He said that [HFS Employee 3] and [HFS Employee 5] just seemed to be nosey, and wanted to know about the campaign. Mr. Pittman said he often heard coworkers talking about his campaigns amongst themselves, as well. He said that he held a fundraiser at a bar early in his campaign, but said he never invited any coworkers to that fundraiser, or discussed it at work at all.

¹³ The OEIG also reviewed Mr. Pittman's HFS telephone records between January 1, 2022 and March 15, 2023, but did not identify any non-State calls in those records.

¹⁴ These individuals' political positions were identified by Mr. Pittman during his OEIG interview or through the OEIG's internet research, and the numbers were confirmed either by Mr. Pittman, through documents filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections, or through internet searches conducted by the OEIG.

Mr. Pittman said that when he worked at HFS, he would speak with his supervisor, [HFS Employee 1], in person once or twice a day when they were both in the office, and frequently by phone and email. Mr. Pittman said that he informed [HFS Employee 1] that he was planning to run for office and was submitting the Ethics Guidance Request Forms to that end, but he did not speak with [HFS Employee 1] about his campaigns outside of that.

Mr. Pittman initially denied soliciting funds for his Treasurer campaign during State time, but when asked if he had any conversations about campaign donations, he said that [HFS Employee 2] once asked him if she could donate to his campaign while they were walking by each other in the office. He said that he told [HFS Employee 2] he could not send her the link while at work, but he did text her the link, which he initially claimed he thought he did on his lunch break, away from the building. When shown a copy of the text message conversation received from [HFS Employee 2], he said recognized it as the one where he sent her the donation link. He was shown his HFS time records, which reflected that he was working on March 29, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and took his lunch break from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., and confirmed that he sent the link at 9:57 a.m., as well as the 1:58 p.m. message thanking [HFS Employee 2] for the donation. Mr. Pittman then claimed that he was pretty sure he took his morning break that day off State property, at the Democratic Committee Headquarters.¹⁵ He confirmed that his breaks while working at HFS were compensated time. Mr. Pittman said he also recalled receiving a donation in the form of a check from [HFS Employee 3], but he did not remember that happening at work, and named several times he had seen her off State time and property as possibilities for when that may have happened.

Mr. Pittman was shown some of the phone records reviewed by the OEIG, for numbers that had multiple calls with his personal cellular phone. Mr. Pittman said that aside from some work-related calls with [HFS Employee 5], he only used his personal phone for State business for his first few weeks of HFS employment, prior to receiving a State cellular phone. When shown the call records from his phone identified in the chart above, Mr. Pittman confirmed that he made or received the calls shown, and that they occurred during State time. Mr. Pittman confirmed that the numbers belonged to his campaign manager, his campaign treasurer, the Democratic Party Chair, an individual who circulated petitions for him, and two Congressional staffers. Mr. Pittman said that calls with his campaign manager may have been campaign related, but said he did not know for sure if any were, and said it was possible some calls with the Democratic Party Chair could have been campaign-related, and it would be disingenuous to flatly deny that possibility, but he did not remember any of them actually being so. He claimed he did not believe any of his calls with his campaign treasurer or the Congressional staffers were campaign related. He said that each of the people with calls in the chart are not just political connections, but also personal friends, and he did not make or take any political calls during working hours, but would have discussed things like dinner plans and attending social events. Mr. Pittman denied making or receiving any political calls during State working hours.

In his interview, Mr. Pittman said at DoIT, his regular schedule is working in the office Tuesday and Wednesday, and remotely the rest of the week, but he usually works more than that in the office each week. Mr. Pittman said that he had not run for office since transferring to DoIT, but that at that time he was considering trying to become a Democratic Precinct Committeeperson,

¹⁵ According to an online mapping service, the Sangamon County Democratic Party Headquarters is approximately 0.3 miles walking distance from the HFS office Mr. Pittman worked at.

which is an elected position.¹⁶

G. Interview of [HFS Employee 1]

[HFS Employee 1] was interviewed on September 18, 2023. [HFS Employee 1] said that he has worked a hybrid schedule, in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, for over two years, while Mr. Pittman worked remotely one day a week, because he needed to be in the office to help people with computer issues. [HFS Employee 1] said he had daily contact with Mr. Pittman via email, phone, and text messages.

[HFS Employee 1] said the only conversations he had with Mr. Pittman about his campaigns were when Mr. Pittman provided information related to how the campaigns affected his work, e.g., he informed [HFS Employee 1] he was running in order to seek approval, and informed [HFS Employee 1] that he would be leaving his HFS position if he won the Treasurer election, as it was a full-time position. [HFS Employee 1] said the only other time he was aware of Mr. Pittman saying something about his campaign at work was when another employee came to him and informed him that Mr. Pittman had made a comment that his campaign ad was ready during a meeting. [HFS Employee 1] said that he raised it with Mr. Pittman, told him not to discuss such things in the office, and Mr. Pittman apologized and promised to refrain. [HFS Employee 1] said he was aware of Mr. Pittman's campaigns for Sangamon County Treasurer and Springfield Ward 6 Alderman, but was not aware of Mr. Pittman making campaign calls in his office, using State resources for his campaigns, being out in the community campaigning on State time, soliciting for his campaigns on State time or property, inviting coworkers to a campaign event at a bar after hours, or, aside from the incident that he spoke to Mr. Pittman about, discussing his campaigns at work.

IV. ANALYSIS

The Ethics Act prohibits State employees from performing certain types of political activity during any compensated time or using State property or resources, including: preparing for, organizing, or participating in political events, soliciting or accepting contributions, and campaigning for any elective office.¹⁷ In her OEIG interview, [HFS Employee 2] said that Mr. Pittman asked her to donate to his campaign while they were both in the office, and then texted her the donation link. Screenshots provided by [HFS Employee 2] show that Mr. Pittman sent that link at 9:57 a.m., received the contribution from [HFS Employee 2] at 10:44 a.m., and then texted her a thank you message at 1:58 p.m. Mr. Pittman's time records reflect that all three of those actions took place during time he reported working, and not on his lunch break, on March 29, 2022. Mr. Pittman admitted that he sent the text message soliciting the donation and received the donation during working hours. Even accepting Mr. Pittman's claim that he left the office and walked over a half-mile back and forth to the Sangamon County Democratic Party Headquarters during a 15-minute break to send the donation link, breaks are compensated time, subject the Ethics Act and HFS political activity prohibitions. The OEIG notes that Mr. Pittman also admitted receiving a political donation from [HFS Employee 3], and she said she brought the check to the office, although

¹⁶ As noted above, subsequent to his interview, Mr. Pittman was elected to a Democratic Precinct Committeeperson position on March 19, 2024.

¹⁷ 5 ILCS 430/1-5, 5-15, 5-35.

Mr. Pittman claimed not to recall receiving the donation at work.

In addition to soliciting and accepting political donations, the evidence showed that Mr. Pittman discussed his campaign on State property and on State time. [HFS Employee 4] said that she heard Mr. Pittman repeatedly talking about campaign business, including campaign event planning and setting up meetings, on the phone at work in October and November 2022, and [HFS Employee 3] said that Mr. Pittman regularly made what she characterized as small talk about the campaign in the office. [HFS Employee 2] also told the OEIG that Mr. Pittman talked about his campaign a lot in the office. Mr. Pittman's personal phone records reflected that he made or received 102 phone calls during 2022 with his campaign manager, his campaign treasurer, two Sangamon County Democratic Party Chairs, an individual who circulated petitions for him, and two Congressional staffers, during State compensated time. Although he initially denied making or receiving any political calls on State time, Mr. Pittman eventually acknowledged that at least some of those calls may have been campaign related. Based on this evidence, there is reasonable cause to believe that Mr. Pittman violated the Ethics Act's prohibited political activity section when, at minimum, he solicited and received a political donation from [HFS Employee 2] during compensated time, and discussed his campaign on State property and during State time.

The OEIG did not identify any instances of Mr. Pittman's prohibited political activity that were reported to [HFS Employee 1], and [HFS Employee 1] said in his interview that he was unaware of such activity other than one instance that he said that he discussed with Mr. Pittman and told him to stop. [Redacted].

V. [REDACTED] AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the evidence detailed above, the OEIG has determined **THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- **[REDACTED]** – Daniel Pittman violated the Ethics Act's prohibited political activity and contribution provisions by soliciting and accepting a campaign donation during State time, and violated the Ethics Act's prohibited political activity provision by discussing campaign business on State property and during State time.

Mr. Pittman clearly had a difficult time keeping his political campaigns separate from his State employment at HFS, especially given the number of phone calls with his campaign staff and other political acquaintances he made and received while on State time, in addition to accepting at least one campaign contribution on State time. Although Mr. Pittman no longer works for HFS, he is still a State employee at DoIT. He has remained politically active as an appointed and now elected Precinct Committeeperson, and continues to work remotely at least some days at DoIT, adding to the risk of conducting political activity on State time in the future. Therefore, the OEIG recommends that DoIT take whatever action it deems appropriate with respect to Mr. Pittman, to ensure that any future political activity he undertakes is kept separate from his State employment.

Date: May 14, 2024

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JB Pritzker, Governor
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May 31, 2024

Via Electronic Mail
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RE: OEIG Case No. 22-02932 - FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

Deputy Inspector General Opperman:

This letter is in response to the Office of Executive Inspector General's ("OEIG") Final Report regarding the above referenced complaint. In response to the OEIG's [REDACTED], the Department of Innovation and Technology ("DoIT") issued a reprimand to Mr. Pittman. Mr. Pittman was directed to complete the 2024 Ethics Training and submit a request for outside employment for all current and any future elected or appointed positions outside of his DoIT employment.

If you have any questions regarding the actions DoIT has taken, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Julie Langrehr
Deputy General Counsel & Ethics Officer