



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

**A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor**

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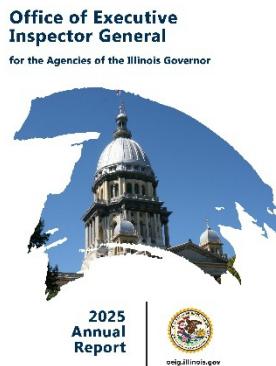
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oeig.illinois.gov



Or call us at:
Main Line:
(312) 814-5600
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OEIG Issues FY2025 Annual Report



The OEIG recently released its annual report for Fiscal Year 2025. This past fiscal year, the OEIG received a record-breaking 3,907 complaints (a 29% increase over the prior fiscal year), completed 228 investigations, conducted numerous hiring reviews, and oversaw training by over 170,000 State employees. The Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) assessed two six-figure fines against former State employees after OEIG investigations found reasonable cause to believe that those employees had violated revolving door provisions of the Ethics Act. To keep up with increased demand on its resources and maintain the mission of the office, the OEIG has consistently and

strategically increased its headcount from 68 in FY2021 to 79 in FY2025. The FY2025 Annual Report is available on the [OEIG website](http://oeig.illinois.gov).

The annual report contains summaries of founded OEIG investigative reports published in FY2025. As described in the annual report, these investigations concerned employees from all over the State of Illinois. These published reports also illustrate a continued trend of misconduct involving employees' conflicts of interest and/or improper secondary employment. In one such case, the OEIG found that while an agency deputy director continued to have a financial interest in a vendor, he was involved in decisions to award work to the vendor, and there was an increase in payments to the vendor and an increase in the vendor's billing for subcontracted work. In response to the OEIG's report, the agency is auditing that vendor's billing and reconciliations and implementing new policies and procedures for conflicts of interest; the Governor's Office also mandated a training for agency fiscal officers relating to reconciliation for vendor payments.

The OEIG's continued work on federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fraud by employees under its jurisdiction is also highlighted. As of the close of FY2025, the OEIG has completed a total of 501 PPP investigations, with 378 resulting in founded reports; 138 of the PPP-related founded reports were made public by the EEC in FY2025.

The OEIG also has jurisdiction over the Regional Transit Boards (RTBs) including Metra, the Chicago Transit Authority, and Pace. In FY2025, the OEIG issued 50 founded reports relating to the RTBs. In one case concluded in FY2025 by the OEIG and subsequently published by the EEC, the OEIG uncovered that for five years, a transit agency paid over \$1,000,000 to employees to stay home and not work at least two days per week. As result of this investigation, the OEIG recommended statutory changes to increase oversight and transparency at the transit agencies. The transit agency also implemented the OEIG's recommendations for changes to telework policies and practices.

The OEIG's work is a shared responsibility with State agencies and taxpayers, and it seeks to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure an ethical, efficient, and accountable State government. The OEIG encourages you to join it in its mission by learning more about its work and reporting wrongdoing at oeig.illinois.gov.