



Illinois Ethics Matters

April 28, 2022

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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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Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the hiring of **Chris Hollander** as an Investigator in its Chicago office.

Prohibited Political Activity In the Time of COVID and Elections

OEIG staff recently presented at the Executive Ethics Commission's Ethics Officer conference about prohibited political activity under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. The presentation highlighted current trends and special considerations in the COVID pandemic.

As a reminder, State employees are prohibited from performing activities in support of campaigns for elective office or in support or against a referendum question while on compensated State time or using State resources. State employees in certain State agencies may have stricter rules on political activity.

OEIG investigations have revealed more political activity on various social media platforms accessed on personal devices. If that activity takes place during compensated time, it is prohibited by the Ethics Act. The OEIG has investigated such activity by, for instance, obtaining information from social media providers and comparing it to employees' work schedules.

During the COVID pandemic, more State employees are working remotely. Employees are reminded that the same ethics rules apply to the workday, regardless of where that work is performed. In other words, employees must not perform prohibited political activity while they are on compensated time. Supervisors should consider reviewing such policies with their subordinates who are working remotely.

The 2022 election season for executive and legislative positions has begun, and some State employees may wish to be involved in political activity in some way. Any State employee with questions about prohibited political activity should contact their ethics officer. A list of those ethics officers is available [here](#).

HEM Releases Quarterly Report

The Hiring & Employment Monitoring Division (HEM) recently released its quarterly report for the first quarter of calendar year 2022. Through the continued work of HEM, the OEIG fulfills its statutory mandate "[t]o review hiring and employment files of each State agency under [its] jurisdiction to ensure compliance with *Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois*, 497 U.S. 62 (1990), and with all applicable employment laws." 5 ILCS 430/20-20(9).

From January 1 and March 31, 2022, HEM conducted the following compliance activity: opened 10 hiring-related reviews; monitored 3 hiring sequences; completed 8 desk audits; transferred 1 hiring review to OEIG investigations; and issued 10 hiring Advisories. In addition, HEM conducted various reviews related to exempt positions, including 98 exempt appointment notifications and 92 exempt position description clarifications.

The OEIG has streamlined its quarterly report for easier reference to the reported data. The latest quarterly report is available [here](#).