



# 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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## Recent News

CMS recently launched a portal for State employees to report any political contact related to an employment action. As part of the Comprehensive Employment Plan (CEP), all unsolicited contacts related to hiring or employment actions for non-exempt positions from any appointed or elected official, or political party, must be reported. For instance, such a political contact could be an unsolicited reference letter from an elected official. The portal can be accessed at <https://ilgov.sharepoint.com/sites/CMSPoliticalContactReporting>.

Currently the CMS portal can only be accessed from an "Illinois.gov" address. In order to further facilitate reporting, the OEIG is working on implementing an electronic reporting system through its website.

Reports of political contacts can also be made directly to the OEIG through its online complaint reporting system [here](#).

## Recent OEIG Investigations

### Mismanagement of Environmental Permits

In OEIG Case #18-01364, the OEIG self-initiated an investigation to determine whether the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) adequately enforced fish protection rules, and whether it otherwise adequately oversaw buildings drawing cooling water from the Chicago River. The OEIG discovered deficiencies in permitting, compliance, and inspections by the IEPA. An IEPA supervisor acknowledged that his units "dropped the ball" on enforcing permit actions and conditions, but there had been little to no action taken to ensure that the compliance evaluation units were properly enforcing permit requirements and conditions. Therefore, the OEIG found that IEPA failed to properly supervise Discharge Elimination permittees located on the Chicago River to ensure that aquatic life was not unduly disrupted by the operation of intake structures.

In response to the report, IEPA stated that it was intending to increase staffing and implement procedures to better track the permitting process. A copy of the report, [In re: Sanjay Sofat & Illinois Environmental Protection Agency \(Case #18-01364\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.

### Improper Fundraising at Agency Facility

In OEIG Case #19-00003, the OEIG investigated allegations that Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) employees were improperly using State resources to advertise, sponsor, or facilitate fundraisers at their workplace. IDVA policy strictly prohibited fundraising on State property. In addition, the fundraising events included activities that appeared to require a license under the Illinois Raffles and Poker Runs Act. Notwithstanding the IDVA's policy, the facility administrator approved multiple fundraising events at the facility, and did not know if a raffle license had been obtained.

In response to the report, IDVA counseled two employees involved with the matter, and trained its executive staff on the solicitation of gifts and fundraising. A copy of the report, [In re: Troy Culbertson \(Case #19-00003\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.