



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

- The OEIG is pleased to announce that **Alexa Vouros** began as an Assistant Inspector General, **Andres Avalos** began as an Accounting Clerk, and **Maheema Haque** began as a Legal Intern, all in the Chicago office.

Political Activity Reminder



In light of the upcoming November 6, 2018 General Election, the OEIG reminds state employees that the Ethics Act limits certain political activities by state employees. State employees may support or oppose candidates or ballot questions, but must do so on their own time and with their own resources under state law.

Employees are generally prohibited from engaging in political activity on state-compensated time, other than vacation, personal, or compensatory time off, or from misappropriating state resources to engage in political activity. In addition, state employees may not solicit or accept campaign contributions on state property. Lastly, the Criminal Code forbids state employees with regulatory or licensing authority from soliciting or accepting contributions to candidates for elective office from entities that those state employees regulate or license.

Since 2008, 26 OEIG investigations regarding political activity have led to monetary fines imposed by the Executive Ethics Commission. In recent years, since 2015, the fines have ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The recent prohibited conduct has included:

- the use of state time and e-mails to work on campaign activities;
- the use of state time and copiers to distribute flyers advocating against a candidate; and,
- soliciting donations for a political action committee on state time, with state resources, and on state property.

Be sure to consult with [your ethics officer](#) if you have any questions about the restrictions on your political activities as a state employee.

OEIG All-Staff Meeting

The OEIG regularly engages in training to improve its investigations and operations. Recently, on September 20 and 21, 2018, the OEIG investigative staff gathered in Bloomington, Illinois, to discuss current topics and best practices in investigations.

The OEIG staff received an in-person sexual harassment training from Ovelia Smith-Barton from the Illinois Department of Human Rights, which will complement the online training that is underway statewide. Several sessions also featured interactive exercises involving difficult situations in investigative interviews. In addition, OEIG staff discussed topics such as the history and development of the Hiring and Employment Monitoring Division, hiring investigations, grant fraud investigations, sexual harassment investigations, and the confidentiality provisions covering OEIG investigations.

The OEIG remains committed to providing its staff with training opportunities, both internally and externally, in order to maintain operational excellence.