



Illinois Ethics Matters

November 16, 2017

www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

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

Office of Executive Inspector General

Margaret A. Hickey
*Executive Inspector
General*

Susan Haling
*First Assistant
Inspector General*

Daniel Hurtado
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
*Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division*

Thomas Klein
*Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Springfield Division*

Claudia P. Ortega
*Chief Administrative
Officer*

Chicago Office:

69 W. Washington St.
Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:

607 E. Adams St.
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:

Phone: (866) 814-1113

TTY:

(888) 261-2734

Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce that **Jacqueline Strasser** returned to the Springfield office as an Administrative Assistant, and **Antonio Mondragon** joined the Chicago office as an Accounting Clerk.
- The EEC issued its decision in [Hickey v Fairbanks \(17 EEC 006\)](#). A copy of the decision is available on the OEIG website.

OEIG Reminds Politically Active State Employees to Consider the Ethics Act



As candidates seek nomination in the March 2018 primary election, state employees, appointees, and officials should remember that the Ethics Act covers certain political activities when undertaken with state resources or on state time.

State employees are welcome to support or oppose candidates or ballot questions but under state law are required to do so on their own time and using their own resources. State employees are generally prohibited from engaging in political activity on state-compensated time, other than vacation, personal, or “comp” time, or from misappropriating state resources to engage in political activity.

In the last 10 years, the EEC has levied \$30,000 in fines against state employees who were determined to have engaged in prohibited political activity. The EEC determined that the employees had violated the Ethics Act by, among other activities:

- sending political emails through state accounts or during state work hours;
- performing political work during state-compensated work hours, including soliciting contributions to PACs;
- using a state vehicle for political work; or
- attending or planning a political gathering on compensated time.

In addition, the Criminal Code forbids state employees with regulatory or licensing authority from soliciting or accepting contributions for candidates for elective office from entities those state employees regulate or license.

As a state employee, if you have any questions regarding any Ethics Act political activity provision, please contact your agency’s ethics officer.

FY2017 Annual Report

The OEIG has released its [FY2017 Annual Report](#). The following are highlights of the report:

- The OEIG evaluated 2,632 complaints involving 95 government agencies, vendors, and contractors.
- The OEIG opened 107 investigations, completed 98 pending investigations, and delivered 29 reports determining that a reasonable basis existed to believe one or more violations had occurred.
- The Hiring and Employment Monitoring Division reviewed over 40 hiring sequences, monitored over 350 interviews in person, and assessed the classification of over 30 positions currently designated as exempt.
- Over 190,000 employees and appointees at more than 350 agencies under OEIG jurisdiction took ethics training.

We strive to conduct our investigations without bias and in a timely manner, and our work is transparent to the fullest extent allowed by law.