

THE VOICE OF ETHICS

A Publication of the Ohio Ethics Commission

2019 Quarter 1



Write it on your heart that every
day is the best day of the year.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Ohio Ethics Commission Closes the Books on 2018!

Advisory Opinions

As part of its statutory duties, the Ohio Ethics Commission provides guidance under the Ethics Law and related statutes. The Commission devotes time and resources to helping both the public and private sectors understand the law which leads to fewer violations. These efforts protect those who seek guidance as well as all Ohio taxpayers.



The Commission's two staff Advisory Attorneys had another very busy year as they responded to:

204 written requests for opinions

More than 2,700 e-mails from people seeking guidance

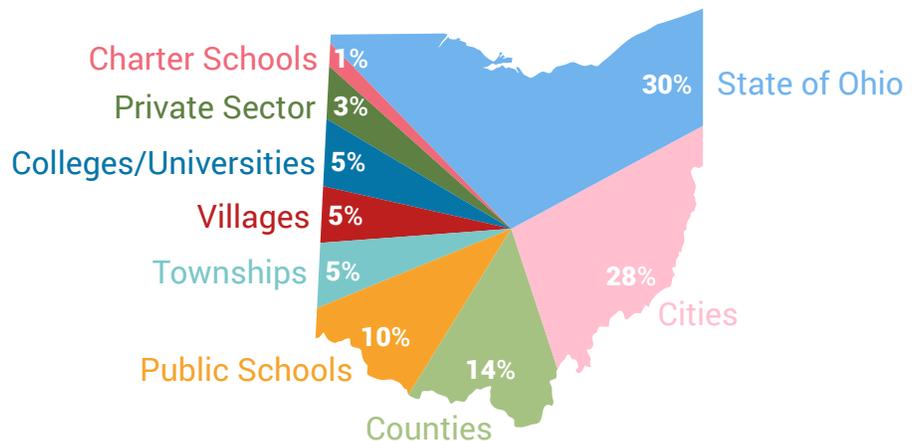
More than 2,000 telephone inquiries seeking guidance

Commonly requested information:
Financial Disclosure

Outside Employment
Post-Employment

Nepotism
Gifts

Advisory requests
were received from:



Please don't hesitate to contact us for advice. [Click here](#) for more information.

Financial Disclosure

In 1974, when the General Assembly enacted the Ohio Ethics Law, it included financial disclosure as a key component of increasing confidence in government and openness. Financial disclosure assists public servants in identifying potential conflicts of interest and allows citizens to become aware of the financial interests of the officials and employees who serve them.

In 2018, the Commission continued to fulfill its statutory duty of administering the financial disclosure program which included receiving more than 10,000 statements with 88 percent of these filers using the Commission's online filing system.

[Click here](#) for more information on Financial Disclosure and the online filing system.

Ethics Education

The Education and Training staff at the Ohio Ethics Commission conducts educational outreach designed to help public officials and employees understand and comply with the law and 2018 proved to be a busy year for this small but mighty staff!



1,800 learners
participated in our
11 webinars

*This is by far the best webinar I have attended.
Light and friendly...GREAT JOB!*

*It was very clear and to the point. The presenter
kept things interesting and funny!*

*Excellent presentation skills, excellent use of
PowerPoint slides, and excellent use of poll
questions.*

*This was the best ethics presentation
I have ever attended!*

18,000 attendees
engaged in our
193 live sessions



*What a fantastic and dynamic presenter –
your presentation is always
very informative and on point*

*You took a difficult topic and made it both
easily understandable and enjoyable!*



35,000 learners
took our
2018 e-course

*Every year this class gets better and better.
Nice job!*

*This was the best web-based
training yet provided.*

*This dramatic, heartfelt, and incredibly positive
online course is simply outstanding. It made
me feel proud to be both an Ohio taxpayer and a
public employee!*

Interested in training opportunities in 2019?
See the related article in this newsletter!

Investigations

The Ohio Ethics Commission is also statutorily charged with investigating alleged violations of the Ethics Law and refers cases supported by substantial evidence for prosecution or alternative resolution.



935

telephone
investigative
inquiries
answered



416

information
requests or
allegations of
wrongdoing
processed



172

cases
investigated



84

new
investigations
opened



61

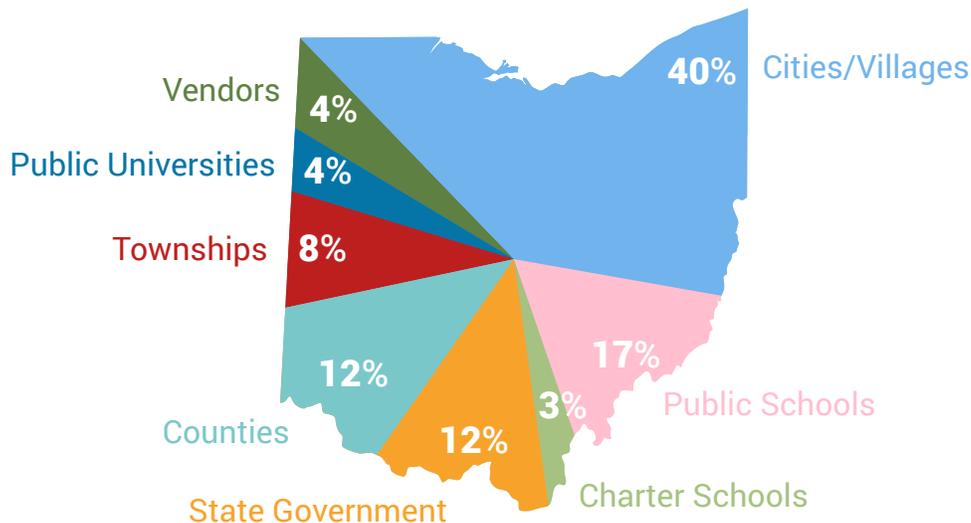
cases
recommended
to prosecutors



18

convictions or
settlements
reached

Individuals from these types of entities were investigated:



Common investigations included:



27%

Public Contracts
(Including Nepotism)



13%

Gifts/Prizes/
Donations



15%

Outside Businesses/
Employment



9%

Sales of Goods
and Services

Ethics Training: Options Await You!

The Ohio Ethics Commission believes that training doesn't have to be limited or boring! We offer numerous training options that are convenient and informative. Here are some options for your Ethics Law training needs in 2019:

On-Site Training

Some groups simply prefer direct interaction and an opportunity to ask questions. If that's your office, our on-site "live" ethics education sessions might be your cup of "ethics tea!" These courses are provided to state and local governments all around Ohio and vary from 30-minute keynote addresses to half-day sessions.

Because these trainings are provided free of charge, the Ethics Commission strives to be a good steward of your tax dollars. As a result, we reserve travel for speeches with larger groups. If your office/agency is outside the Columbus area, we request a minimum of 75 attendees to conduct a live presentation. To schedule a speaker or to discuss other appropriate options, please contact Susan Willeke at the contact information below.

2019 E-Course: "The Ohio Ethics Law: Good Government in Action"

Tens of thousands of state and local government officials and employees have discovered the cost-effective and interactive e-learning opportunities provided by the Ohio Ethics Commission!

The 2019 e-course, "The Ohio Ethics Law: Good Government in Action" is now available on our website! The course provides an overview of the Ethics Law while offering current and relevant examples. It takes approximately 70 minutes to complete and proof of course completion is provided when the learner prints or saves the certificate at the end of the course.

Note for state employees and officials: this e-course meets the annual training requirement as outlined in the Governor's Ethics Executive Order 2019-11D. We are also pleased to announce to attorneys that this year's e-course was once again approved for one general hour of self-study CLE!

[Click here for the 2019 E-Course](#)

Webinars

In 2018, the Commission conducted eleven live webinars with more than 1,800 electronic “attendees” from all across Ohio. The webinars provide an overview of the Ohio Ethics Law, so we are offering them once again this year!

The 2019 webinars will occur on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 12	10 AM	Thursday, August 15	10 AM
Wednesday, March 13	10 AM	Friday, September 13	10 AM
Thursday, April 18	1 PM	Tuesday, October 15	1 PM
Tuesday, May 13	10 AM	Thursday, November 14	10 AM
Monday, June 11	10 AM	Wednesday, December 11	10 AM
Wednesday, July 17	10 AM		

[Click here for Webinar Registration](#)

Regional Sessions

For those agencies that may not be able to host a training session but have staff or board members who prefer a “live” classroom setting, we provide “Regional Trainings” around the state. These classes are open to all public officials and employees who would like to know more about the Ohio Ethics Law. All state, county, city, township, and village officials and employees are welcome to attend!

For state officials and employees, these classes fulfill your Ethics Law training requirement under the Governor’s Executive Order. As an added bonus for public practice attorneys, we have requested from the Ohio Supreme Court 1.5 general CLE hours.

Please join us for these free and interactive discussions on the Ohio Ethics Law!

Columbus	May 2	10 am	Cincinnati	September 6	10 am
Perrysburg	May 21	10 am	Columbus	October 16	10 am
Cleveland	June 19	10 am	Columbus	December 5	10 am

[Click here for Regional Session Information](#)

Questions? E-mail susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-7090

Attorneys Needing Professional Conduct CLE? You've Come to the Ethical Place!



The free Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses offered jointly each year by the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct continue to receive rave reviews year after year!

If you are a public practice attorney looking for a high-quality (and did we mention FREE?) CLE course offering 2.5 professional conduct hours, you will want to visit our website! We have scheduled three classes in 2019 with two being held in Columbus and one in the Cleveland area. To register or join our e-mail list for notifications regarding CLE classes, please visit the following link.

[Click here](#) to register for a CLE class and subscribe to the Ohio Ethics Commission's CLE e-mail notification list.



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