

THE VOICE OF ETHICS

A Publication of the Ohio Ethics Commission

2025 Quarter 1



Ohio Company Land Office
Marietta, Ohio
Built 1788

Ohio Ethics Commission Reflections: 2024

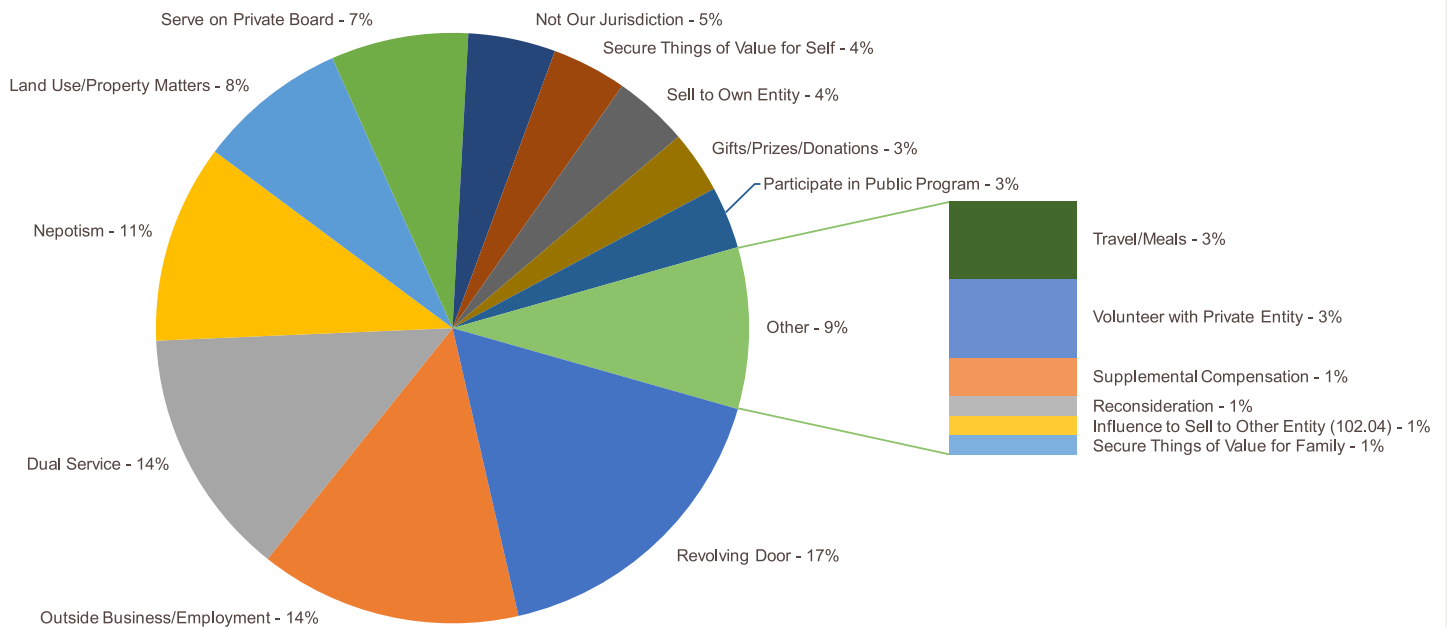
The beginning of a new year naturally evokes thoughts on what lies ahead, all that we can accomplish, and all we can be grateful for. It's also an ideal time to reflect on the past year – goals met, challenges faced, and lessons learned. While it would be difficult to outline all that occurred at the Ohio Ethics Commission in 2024, highlights are summarized below. Don't forget to check out [our website](#) for even more!

Advisory Opinions

The Ethics Commission is statutorily authorized to provide guidance regarding the Ohio Ethics Law to assist public employees and officials and in understanding and complying with the law. The Commission's Advisory section helps to protect those regulated by that statute and taxpayers from wrongdoing in government. Our Advisory Attorneys had a productive 2024 as outlined below, including responding to 147 written requests and replying to thousands of emails and telephone inquiries. Advisory attorneys noted that the most common questions in 2024 related to post-employment, outside business/employment, and dual public service.

Advice was provided to both state and local government officials and employees. Common issues addressed by the Advisory Attorneys included questions regarding general conflicts of interest, dual public service, gifts, prizes, and donations. Notably last year, the Commission issued [Advisory Opinion 2024-01](#) which removed burdensome procedures for public agencies seeking to appoint public officials or employees to serve on a non-profit in their official capacity.

2024 Opinions Issued by Topic



Investigations

Another important statutory duty of the Ohio Ethics Commission is investigating alleged violations of the Ethics Law. The Commission's Investigative team conducts professional and confidential investigations and refers cases supported by substantial evidence for prosecution or alternative resolution.

In 2024, Investigative Staff responded to more than 960 telephone investigative inquiries and processed hundreds of information requests or allegations of wrongdoing. Commission Special Investigators continue to notice a trend of more complex questions regarding the Ohio Ethics Law and welcome the opportunity to provide assistance and resources.



960
Investigative
Contacts



174
Cases Investigated

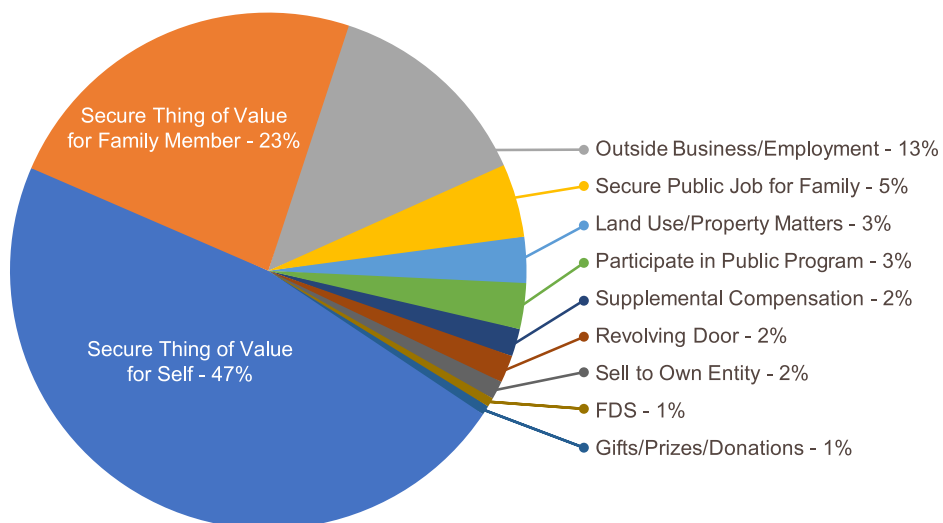


96
Cases Closed

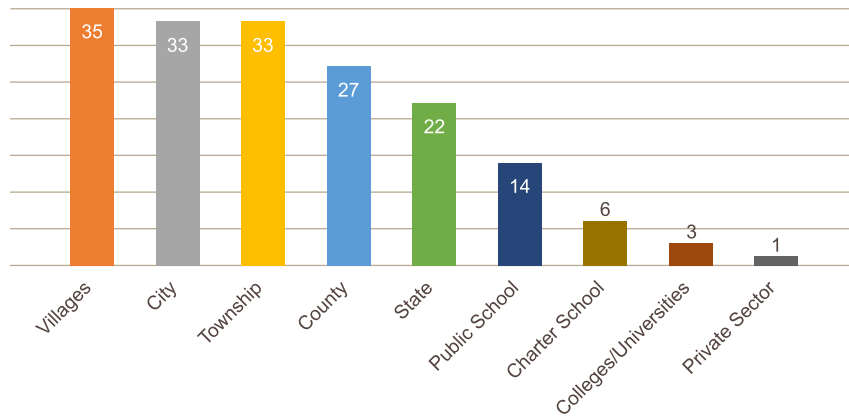


85%
Local Government
Investigations

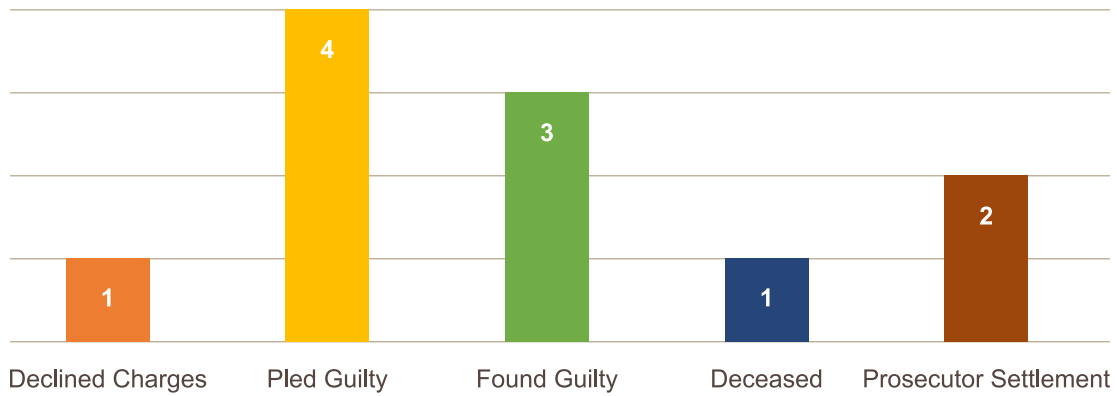
2024 Investigations by Topic



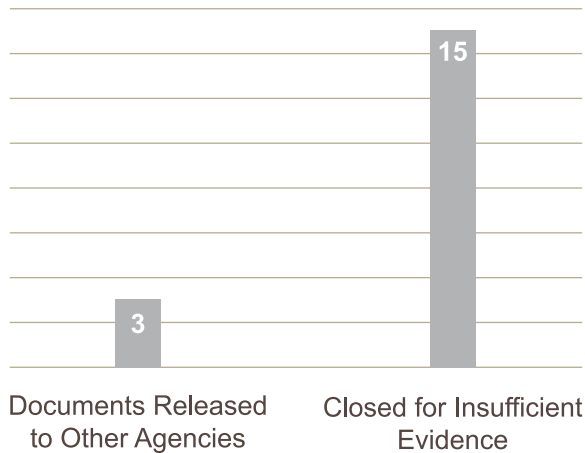
2024 Investigations by Entity Type



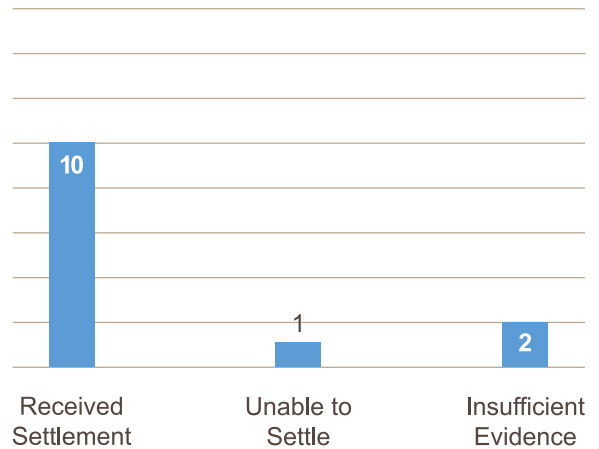
Prosecutor Referrals



Investigation



Settlement



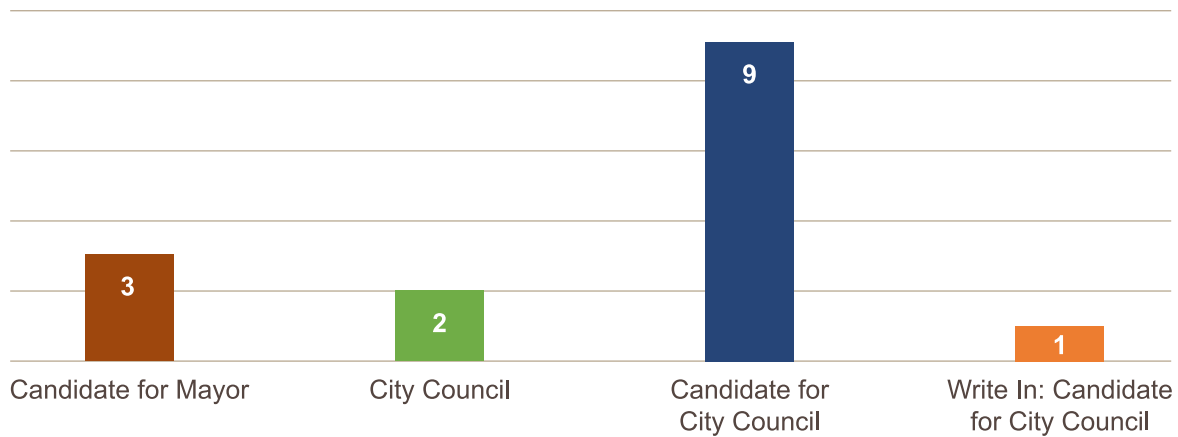
For more information on the Ethics Commission's investigative process or information on speaking with a Special Investigator, check out the [Investigative page](#) of our website!

Financial Disclosure

Another statutory responsibility of the Ohio Ethics Commission is administering the financial disclosure program. Financial disclosure statements (FDS) are an important step in assisting some public servants, such as certain elected officials and high-ranking state employees, in identifying potential conflicts of interest and providing transparency to Ohio citizens.

Our FDS team was busy in 2024 as the Commission received more than 9,800 statements with more than 96 percent of these filers using the Commission's convenient and highly professional online filing system.

2024 Formal Complaints Against Non-Filers by Position



If you are new to financial disclosure filing or want additional information regarding this program, please visit the [Financial Disclosure page](#) of the Commission's web site or check out our [FDS FAQ!](#)

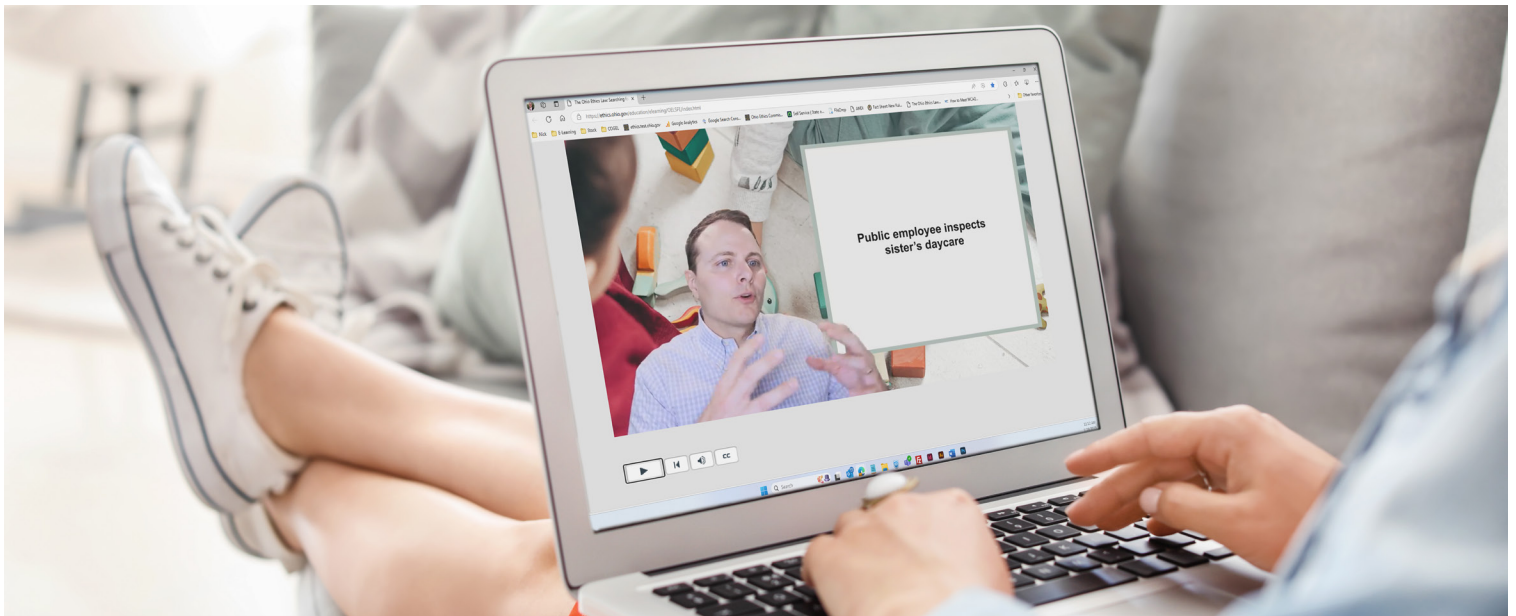


2025 Ohio Ethics Law Training Options

Each year, the Ohio Ethics Commission updates our training classes to ensure they are up-to-date, meaningful, and helpful. Because we know lives and schedules are busier than ever, we provide numerous training options so you can choose the one that works best for you. Take a look at our training menu for 2025!

- For training on your timetable, try our e-course: “[The Ohio Ethics Law: Searching for Ethics.](#)”
- For live interactive training in the comfort of your own office or home, try one of our [2025 Webinars!](#) Choose an introductory class, a deeper study, or request a customized webinar for your office.
- For those who prefer the dynamics of an in-person session, email susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov to discuss the possibility of scheduling a session at your public office.
- For our attorney friends, we have obtained one hour of general CLE for our e-course and both types of webinars.

With so many convenient training options, we wish for you (and look forward to) and happy and ethical 2025!



Special Training Note for Law Enforcement

[The Ohio Ethics Law and Law Enforcement e-course](#) has once again been approved for one general credit hour of Continuing Professional Training by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. This customized on-demand virtual training explores Ethics Law questions that can arise for police officers, including gift acceptance, conflicts of interest, and much more. Don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Calling All Public Practice Attorneys!

Is 2025 your reporting year? If so, don't wait until December to complete your required CLE training! In fact, look no further than our [CLE webpage](#) for free classes approved for 2.5 attorney conduct hours. All three classes are free of charge, are co-presented by the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct and are customized for attorneys who serve the public. Two sessions are virtual, and one will take place in-person in downtown Columbus. Sign up today and cross an item off your "to do" list!

May 21, 2025	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Webcast with Live Q&A
October 15, 2025	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	William Green Building, Columbus
November 19, 2025	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Webcast with Live Q&A

[CLE Registration Page](#)



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