



Ohio Election Integrity Commission FAQ

What is the Ohio Election Integrity Commission?

The Ohio General Assembly enacted legislation (House Bill 96) in 2025 to abolish the Ohio Elections Commission and create a new five-member Ohio Election Integrity Commission. Lawmakers took this action amid growing concerns about the inconsistent and ineffective enforcement of Ohio's election laws by the previous commission over many years, resulting in millions of dollars in uncollected fines and unenforced penalties issued to offenders.

While the newly created Ohio Election Integrity Commission (OEIC) is housed in the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State, which provides staff and administrative support, it operates under the authority of its five appointed bipartisan members. The appointees include one each of the following:

- Chair appointed by the Ohio Secretary of State
- Member appointed by the President of the Ohio Senate
- Member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate
- Member appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives
- Member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives

What does the Ohio Election Integrity Commission do?

The commission is responsible for enforcing Ohio's election laws, reviewing alleged violations, and ensuring accountability in matters related to voting, petitions, and campaign finance.

What offenses fall under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Election Integrity Commission?

The OEIC has authority over violations of Ohio's election laws, including:

- Campaign finance violations
- Offenses related to election petitions
- Offenses involving absentee ballots
- False voter registration
- Voting or attempting to vote without legal eligibility
- Voting or attempting to vote more than once in the same election

What happens with unresolved cases previously under review by the Ohio Elections Commission?

Effective January 1, 2026, all pending cases from the Ohio Elections Commission are transferred to the Ohio Election Integrity Unit for review and disposition under the new process.

How do I file a new complaint with the Ohio Election Integrity Commission?

Anyone who has personal knowledge of an election law violation may file a complaint at www.OhioElectionIntegrity.gov.

Does the Ohio Election Integrity Commission function differently from the former Ohio Elections Commission?

Yes, while the prior Ohio Elections Commission focused its work almost entirely on enforcing campaign finance law violations, the new commission has expanded authority to consider other election-related offenses, such as those related to voter registration and voting. In the past, alleged violations were referred directly to the commission; however, under the new process, all allegations of wrongdoing are referred to the Ohio Secretary of State's Election Integrity Unit, a team of law enforcement investigators who are responsible for gathering all available evidence and determining how to proceed with the case.

What happens when a complaint is filed?

The Secretary of State's Election Integrity Unit reviews the complaint to see if an investigation is warranted.

- Based on the findings of an investigation and recommendation of the Election Integrity Unit, the law requires the Secretary of State to:
 - Refer the matter back for further investigation and a revised recommendation;
 - Adopt the findings that a violation has occurred and assess a fine; or
 - Adopt the findings and refer the matter to a county prosecutor.

How do I appeal a decision by the Secretary of State to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission?

An appeal to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission must be made within 14 days of a finding being received from the Secretary of State's office.

How do I pay a fine?

Fines may be paid online using the commission's online payment portal, or by submission of a check or money order (made payable to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission Fund) to Ohio Election Integrity Commission, 180 Civic Center Dr., 4th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Fines that are not paid within 45 days will be sent to the Ohio Attorney General's Collections Enforcement Section, responsible for collecting outstanding debt owed to the State of Ohio. This may result in legal action, including garnishment of wages, asset seizure, or other lawful means of debt collection.

Where can I find information on cases currently or previously before the Ohio Election Integrity Commission?

The Ohio Election Integrity Commission posts all decisions and advisory opinions issued by the commission at OhioElectionIntegrity.gov.

OHIO ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT PROCESS

Complaint Filed

Public Integrity Division's Election Integrity Unit

Initial Review: The unit receives the complaint and determines if the complaint is in the legal scope to investigate.

Investigation: If it is acceptable to investigate, the unit will begin an investigation.

Violation Determination: After an investigation, the unit will determine, using objective criteria and legal analysis, if the complaint meets the standard to either levy a fine or refer for prosecution.

Penalty Determination: If it meets the standards of a violation, the Secretary of State will issue findings that a monetary fine or referral for prosecution is appropriate based on the degree of the violation using objective and consistent criteria.

14-day window to appeal the decision to the OEIC

Ohio Election Integrity Commission (OEIC)

Initial Hearing: If the decision is appealed, the OEIC will assign an attorney in good standing to serve as a hearing officer, hold a hearing with the complainant or respondent, and prepare a recommendation for the OEIC.

OEIC Ruling: At the next OEIC meeting, the commission will review the recommendation of the hearing officer and make a final determination.