

CUYAHOGA COUNTY AGENCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEMI-ANNUAL UPDATE
JANUARY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2025



ALEXANDRA R. BEELER
INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE AGENCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

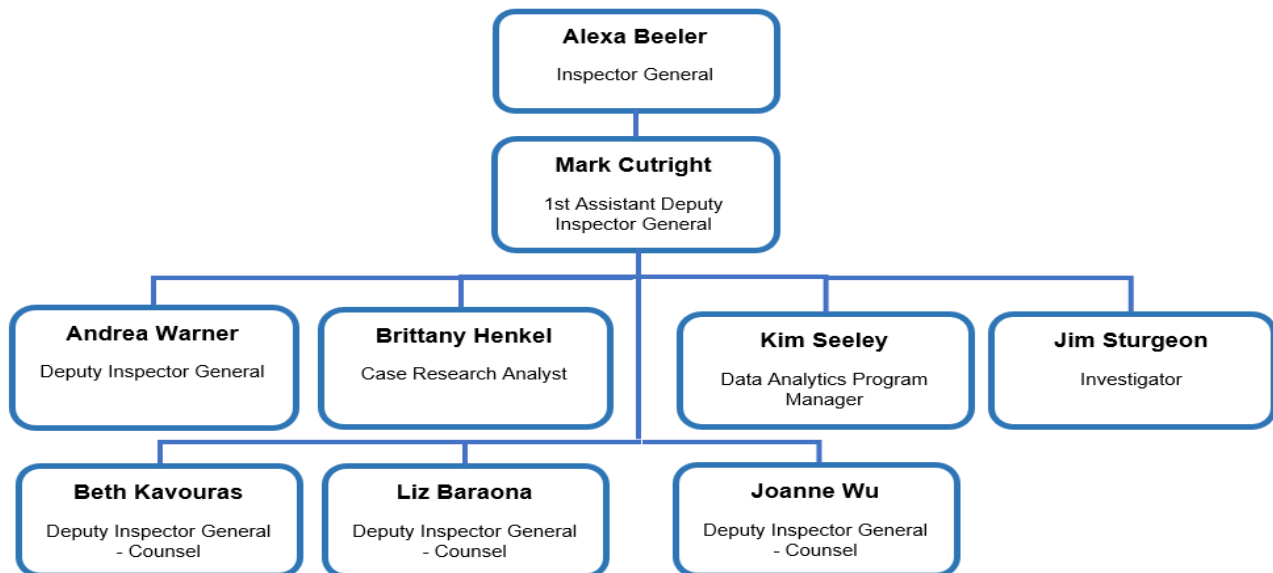
The Cuyahoga County (the “County”) Agency of Inspector General (“AIG”) was voted into the County Charter by the citizens of Cuyahoga County. The AIG serves to protect taxpayers’ interests by promoting honesty and accountability in County government.



Alexa Beeler has served as the County’s Inspector General since April 26, 2022. The County Charter designates the Inspector General as the Chief Ethics Officer and grants broad authority to conduct investigations into possible ethical violations. The County Code grants the Inspector General the right and duty to investigate fraud, corruption, waste, abuse, misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance.

The AIG is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that County elected officials, employees, and board members, as well as lobbyists and contractors doing or seeking to do business with the County, meet the highest ethical standards.

During the first half of 2025, the AIG operated under the following organizational structure:

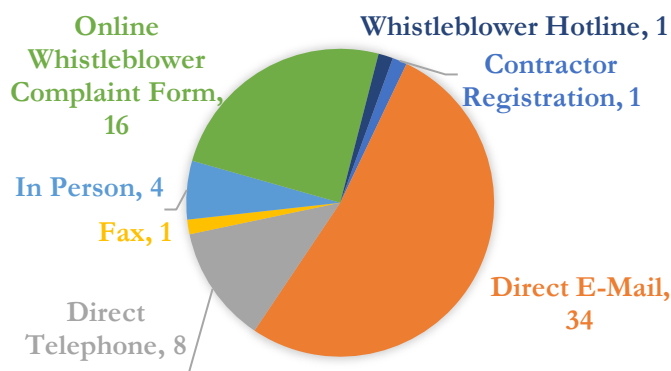


WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

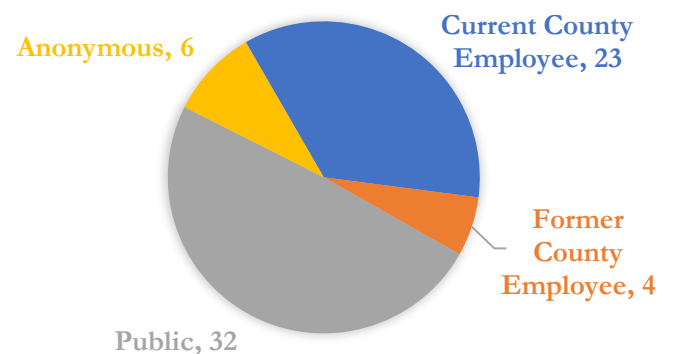
The County’s Whistleblower Policy protects whistleblowers and **requires** that County employees, elected officials, and board members with actual knowledge of a violation of the County Ethics Code make a whistleblower complaint.

The AIG receives whistleblower complaints by any method, from all sources – including confidential and anonymous sources. During the first half of 2025, the AIG received **65** whistleblower complaints.

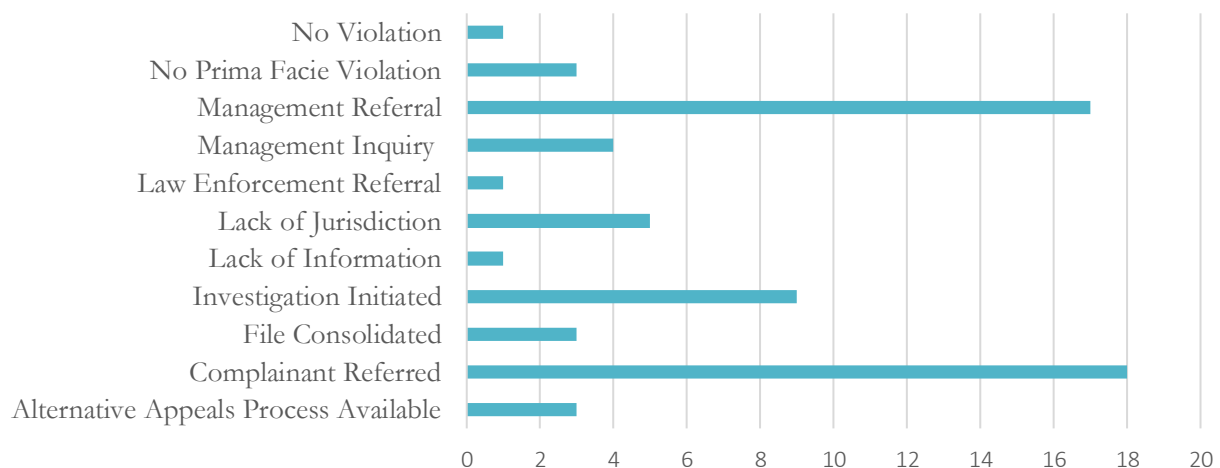
METHOD OF RECEIPT



COMPLAINT SOURCE

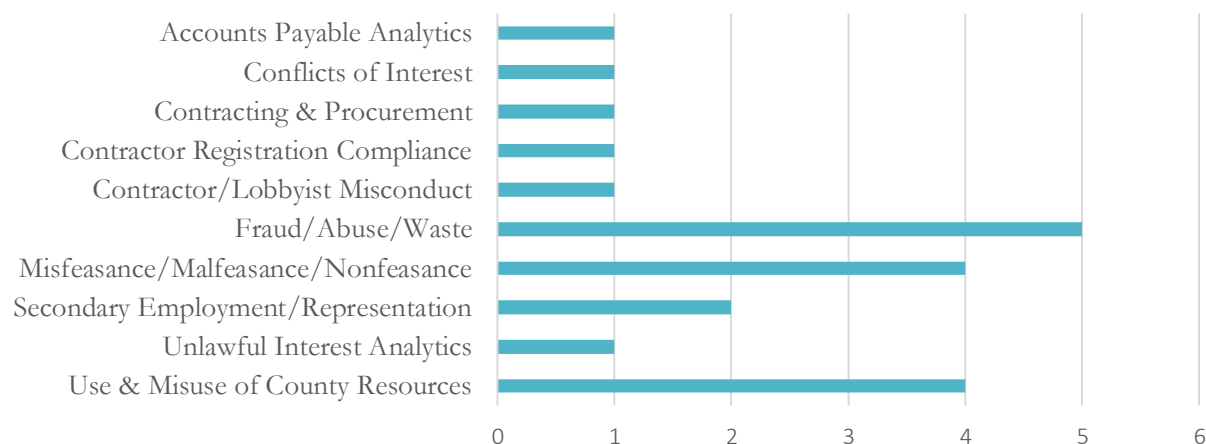


COMPLAINT DISPOSITION



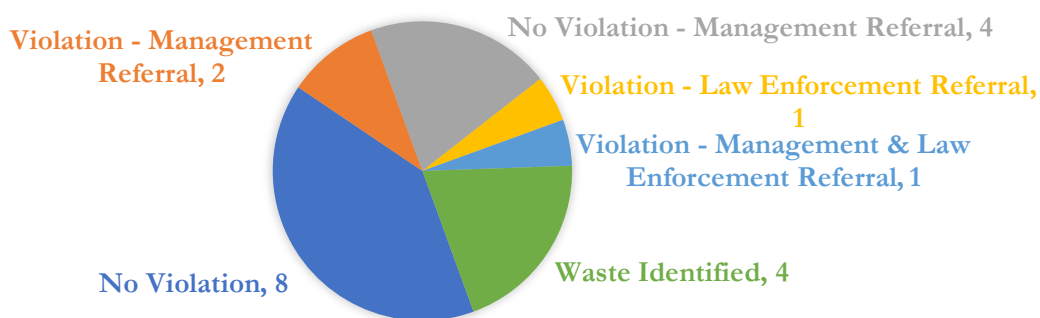
INVESTIGATIONS

The AIG initiated **21** investigations during this reporting period, stemming from both whistleblower complaints and those initiated by the AIG, on the following topics:



The AIG completed **20** investigations,¹ through which it identified **\$321,022** in challenged costs and improper expenditures. Since the AIG’s inception, it has identified a total of **\$11,840,195** in challenged costs and expenditures through its investigations and reviews.

INVESTIGATION DISPOSITION



The AIG referred 2 matters for possible prosecution, and made management recommendations related to improving policies and recovering wasteful/improper spending as a result of 10 investigations.

¹ Those 20 investigations were completed in an average of 86 days.

DATA ANALYTICS

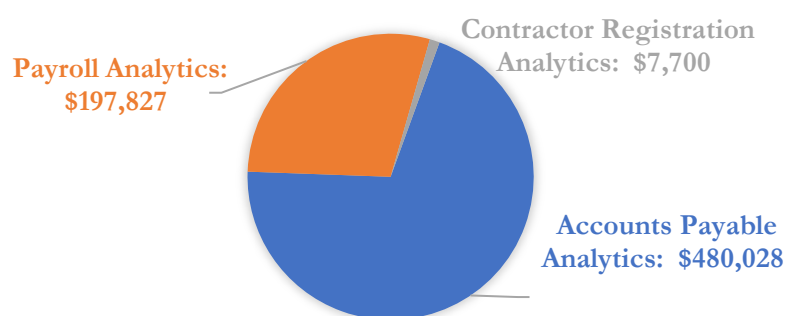
The AIG's automated data analytics program enables the AIG to use and analyze the County's data in a way not otherwise possible in its continued effort to detect fraud, waste and abuse. The AIG's program includes analysis of the following areas:

- Accounts Payable Analytics
- Employee Payroll Analytics
- Unlawful Interest Analytics
- Contractor Registration Compliance

During the first half of 2025, the AIG utilized its data analytics program to identify:

- **\$4,972** in outstanding duplicate payments issued to County contractors;
- **\$63,740** in outstanding payroll overpayments; and
- **17** County contractors who were not registered with the AIG as required by the County Code, equating to **\$1,700** in lost revenue.

Since 2022, through a combination of all the analytics, the AIG has identified a total of **\$1,462,977** in lost revenue or overpayments issued by the County,² with **\$685,555** still outstanding as of the time the issues were identified, broken down as follows:

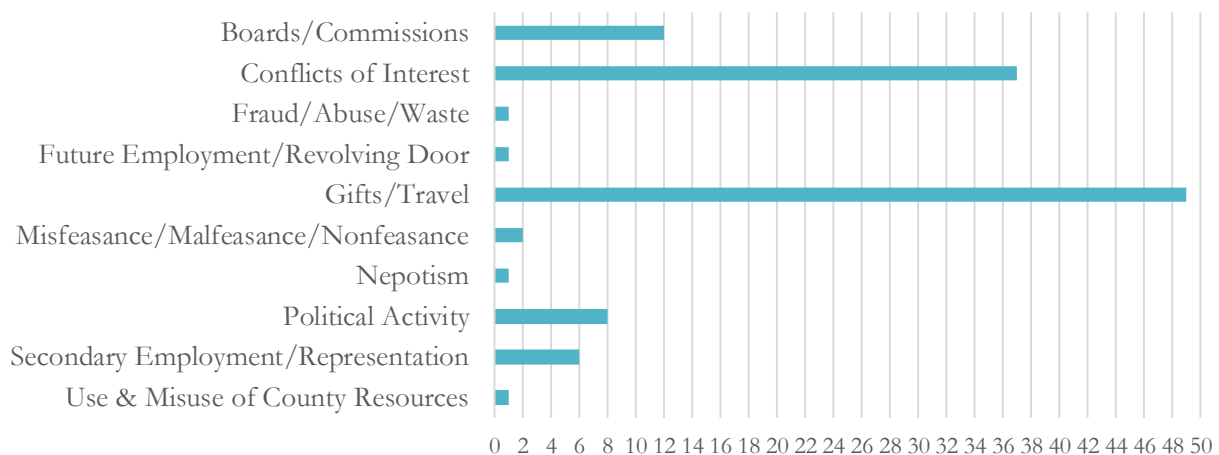


The AIG has implemented a system for centrally tracking outstanding overpayments and lost revenue and has established a process to ensure their recoupment. This has resulted in the recovery of overpaid funds, with the AIG verifying that of the \$685,555 in outstanding overpayments it identified, the County has recouped or appropriately remedied **\$526,733** thus far. The AIG thanks the departments involved for their continued efforts and collaboration.

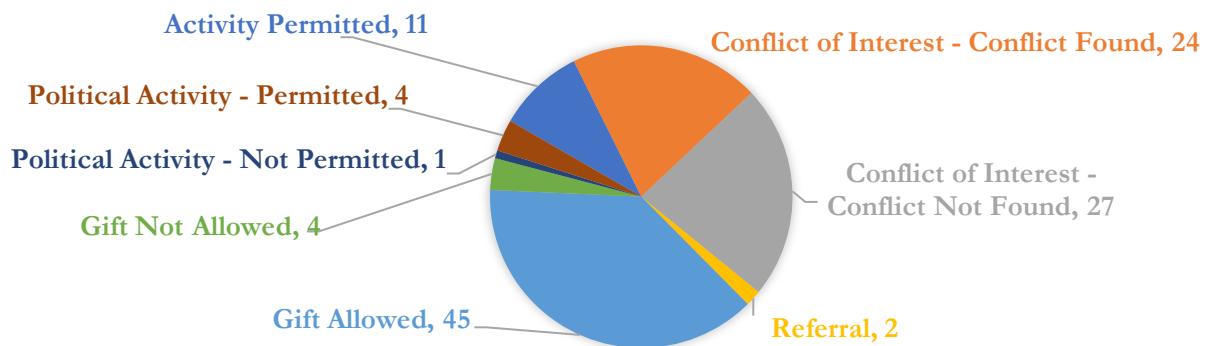
² The AIG additionally identified and referred \$527,706 in potential overpayments issued by non-executive agencies.

ETHICS

The AIG encourages elected officials and employees to seek guidance before they act to ensure their proposed course of conduct complies with the County Ethics Code. During this reporting period, the AIG issued **118** Ethics Advisory Opinions, which far surpasses the pre-2022 average of 39 opinions issued in a half. The Ethics Advisory Opinions were issued on the following topics:



The AIG made the following determinations with respect to the 118 Ethics Inquiries:



In addition to issuing Ethics Advisory Opinions, the AIG also opined on **155** inquiries regarding secondary employment and received and reviewed **38** Nepotism/Conflict-of-Interest disclosures during this reporting cycle.

CONTRACTORS & LOBBYISTS

REGISTRATION

Pursuant to County Code § 405.01 and § 501.19, all lobbyists and any contractor doing more than \$10,000 in business annually with the County must register with the AIG unless they qualify for a preapproved exemption.³ Registration includes three steps:

- (1) completion of the online registration form;
- (2) paying a \$100 registration fee; and
- (3) completion of ethics training, which instructs on how to conduct ethical business practices and avoid improper methods of soliciting business from County officials.

As of June 30, 2025, there were **1,899** contractors and **17** lobbyists registered with the AIG. The AIG received **197** new contractor registrations in the first half of 2025.

Upon registration, the AIG performs a comprehensive background check on contractors and their principal(s), which includes determining whether the contractor has any outstanding tax liens. If the AIG identifies tax issues, it requires the contractor to either become current with its tax obligations or enter into a payment plan; otherwise, it could face debarment.

This half, the AIG identified **\$652,532** in delinquent property taxes and outstanding tax liens owed by contractors. To date, the AIG has identified **\$9,104,065** in such unpaid taxes.

DEBARMENT

The AIG administers the County's Debarment Law, which establishes a procedure for the AIG to debar contractors who meet certain criteria related to poor business practices or unethical behavior. Depending on the grounds for debarment, a contractor may be debarred for 5 years, 3 years, or 18 months, and during that time the contractor cannot do business with the County as a contractor or subcontractor or submit any offer to contract with the County.

During this reporting period, the AIG initiated **10** debarment matters. The AIG made final determinations on **11** debarment matters, consisting of **9** determinations not to initiate debarment proceedings and **2** 18-month debarments for a breach or violation of a contract with the County.

³ See <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/inspector-general/contractors-lobbyists/contractor-exemption-listing> and <https://www.cuyahogacounty.gov/code/titles/title-4-ethics/chapter-405-lobbyists>.

CONTACT THE AIG

We want to hear from you! Whether it is to report fraud, waste, abuse, or a violation of the County Ethics Code,⁴ or if it is to seek an ethics opinion regarding an action you would like to take, we encourage you to contact us without hesitation in the way that works best for you.

- Call the AIG Whistleblower Hotline at 216-698-2999
- Visit the AIG website at <http://cuyahogacounty.gov/inspector-general/>
 - Submit a [Whistleblower Complaint Form](#) to report violations
 - Submit an [Ethics Opinion Request Form](#) for ethics questions
- E-mail the Inspector General e-mail account at inspectorgeneral@cuyahogacounty.gov
- Call the AIG Main Line at 216-698-2101
- Write a letter or send documentation to:

The Agency of Inspector General
2079 E. 9th Street, Sixth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
- Visit the AIG in person
- Slip a letter under the door
- Call, e-mail, or contact an AIG staff member directly
- Send a fax to 216-698-2218

There is no wrong way to contact the AIG!

⁴ You may also make a whistleblower complaint to a supervisor in your chain of command or to the Department of Human Resources.