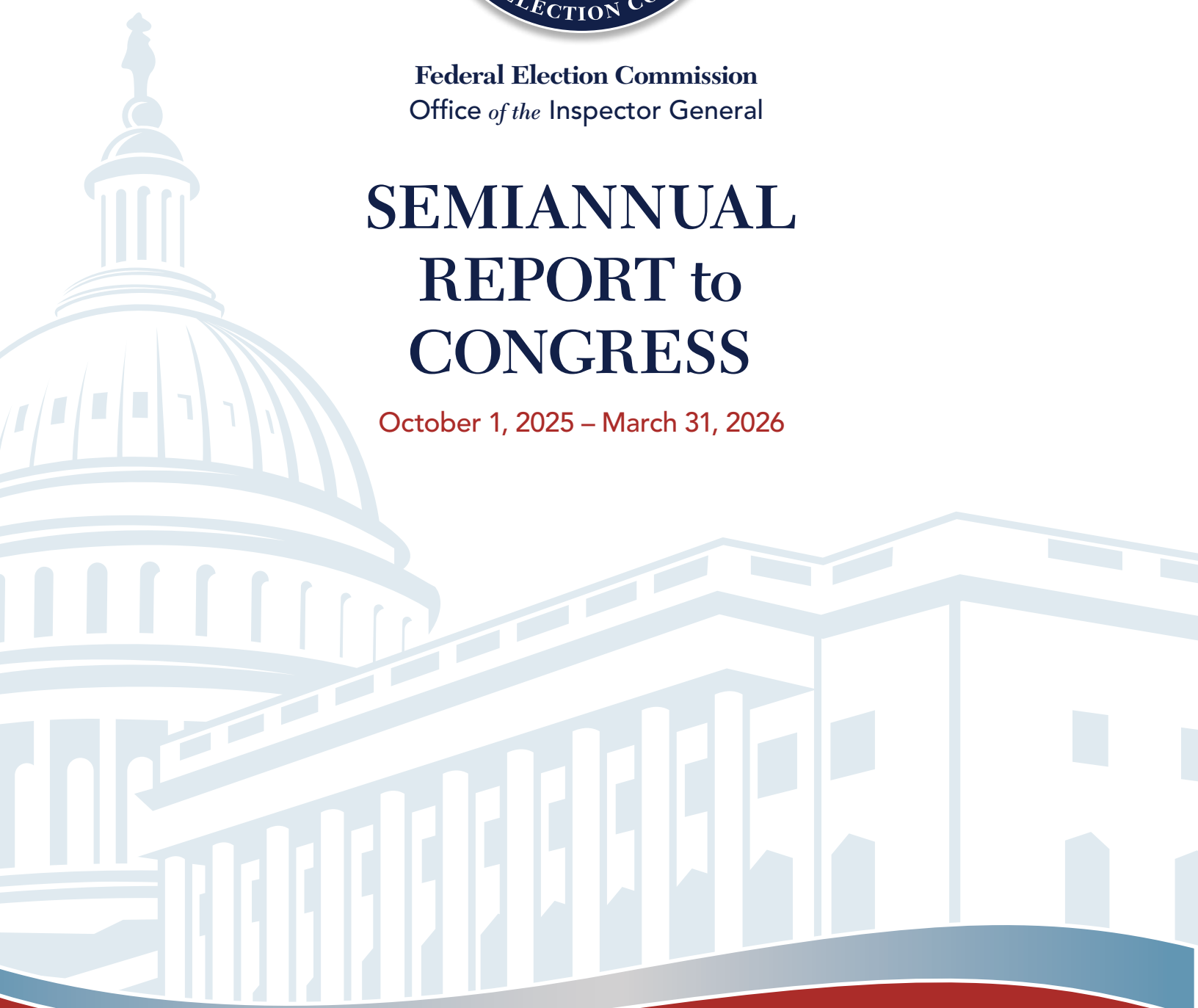




Federal Election Commission
Office *of the* Inspector General

SEMIANNUAL REPORT to CONGRESS

October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026



MAY 2026

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

May 25, 2026

The Honorable J. Michael Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-209 United States Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable JD Vance
President of the Senate
S-212 United States Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the Federal Election Commission submits the Office of Inspector General's *Semiannual Report to Congress*. The report summarizes the activity of the FEC Office of Inspector General ("OIG") from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

During this reporting period, the FEC's OIG completed, with the assistance of contract auditors, the annual audit of the FEC's financial statements. We are pleased to report that the Commission received an unqualified opinion on the required statements: the FEC's Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2025, and the related Statements of Net Costs, Changes in Net Position, Budgetary Resources, and Custodial Activity for the year then ended. This marks the seventeenth consecutive year with no material weaknesses identified. The auditors raised an issue pertaining to the agency's Information Technology Inventory System that does not rise to the level of a material weakness, but nonetheless merits attention by the Commission. The response of FEC management to that issue appears in the Agency Financial Report, which was issued on December 18, 2025.

In the Agency Financial Report, the FEC's OIG also identified the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency. As the Inspector General notes in her message, one of the most critical challenges continues today: the FEC has been without a quorum since May 1, 2025, which makes this period the longest quorum lapse in FEC history. Management's response about this challenge and the others identified by the OIG appears in the Agency Financial Report.

The Commission appreciates and shares the Office of Inspector General's commitment to sound financial and management practices and looks forward to continuing its cooperative working relationship as management takes appropriate measures to improve operations of the Commission. Copies of the *Semiannual Report to Congress* are being provided to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the FEC's oversight committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shana M. Broussard".

Shana M. Broussard
Chair

Enclosure

Message from the Inspector General

I am pleased to present the Federal Election Commission (FEC) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG's) Semiannual Report to Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Although the government was not funded for half of the first quarter of the fiscal year, the FEC OIG was still able to produce two key pieces of work in December 2025, namely the annual financial statement audit and *Management and Performance Challenges Facing the FEC for FY 2026*. Both bodies of work were done under enormous time pressure and I want to thank the FEC OIG team, our contractors, and FEC Management and staff for the extra effort that it took to meet the revised December 17th deadline for those reports.

Our *Management and Performance Challenges* report identified five challenges facing the FEC. One of the most critical continues today: the loss of quorum and the loss of bipartisan membership. On April 30th, the FEC will have been without a quorum for an entire year – the longest period that the agency has gone without a quorum in its history. This period also marks another unfortunate first: the first time that the Commission has lacked bipartisan membership. The Commission's rules for operating when quorum is not present still require bipartisan agreement. Without bipartisan agreement, the remaining Commissioners have been unable to take certain critical operational actions, such as making acting appointments for senior FEC positions and approving budget estimates for the President and Congress. Fortunately, the President nominated two individuals to serve as FEC Commissioners on February 11, 2026. Hopefully the Senate will be able to confirm these individuals promptly so that quorum is restored as soon as possible.

I am pleased to report that in March 2026, the Election Assistance Commission OIG completed a modified peer review of our audit functions. They concluded that our established policies and procedures were current and consistent with applicable professional standards.

As our Semiannual Report shows, the coming months will be very busy and we look forward to completing multiple projects. I want to thank the OIG staff for their continued professionalism and dedication to public service, as well as the Commissioners and FEC Management for their continue collaboration and cooperation.



Susan L. Ruge-Hudson
Inspector General

Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the FEC for FY 2026

In accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, the OIG is required to annually identify the most serious management and performance challenges facing the FEC. By statute, this report is required to be included in the FEC's Agency Financial Report.

The OIG issued its report on December 15, 2025, and identified five performance and management challenges facing the FEC. These challenges are summarized below.

1. Loss of Quorum and Loss of Bipartisan Membership

The Federal Election Commission requires a quorum of four members to exercise its duties and powers under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) as amended.¹ The FEC has been without a quorum since April 30, 2025, when Commissioner Allen J. Dickerson resigned, leaving the agency with only three commissioners. On October 3, 2025, Commissioner James E. Trainor III stepped down, leaving the FEC with only two Commissioners belonging to the same political party – an unprecedented situation.

The FEC's ability to meet its mission is significantly impaired when it has fewer than four members.² The Commission is unable to perform some of its most important functions, such as issuing advisory opinions to filers who request guidance; holding hearings; approving enforcement actions and audits; authorizing new investigations or making referrals to other enforcement agencies; making, amending, or repealing rules; and initiating litigation or defending the agency in certain litigation. Additionally, the agency is unable to conduct crucial administrative business, including hiring permanent staff for senior positions and adopting new agency-wide policies, which makes it very difficult, and in some cases impossible, for the agency to ensure compliance with all directives issued by the new Administration.

FEC Directive 10 contains rules governing the business the Commission may conduct when it has fewer than four members. If all remaining Commissioners are present, Directive 10 lists 20 specific categories of matters upon which the remaining Commissioners may act. For example, the remaining Commissioners may issue notices of filing dates, including filing dates for special elections; make acting appointments for certain senior FEC positions; approve budget estimates for the President and Congress; issue non-filer notices; approve debt settlement plans; approve systems of records notices pursuant to the Privacy Act; conduct the agency head review of labor-management agreements; approve the FEC Management Plan; and approve contracts. Directive 10, however, specifically requires approval of all such actions on a bipartisan basis. Therefore, the fact that the agency has also lost bipartisan membership greatly compounds these challenges.

¹ Commission Directive 10, "Rules of Procedure of the Federal Election Commission Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437c(e)" (June 8, 1978; amended Dec. 20, 2007).

² We note that there is still work that the agency is able to accomplish without a quorum. For example, FEC staff can continue to help filers and the public understand their obligations to comply with the law, process and review committee reports, provide public access to campaign finance data, and litigate ongoing court cases, process new enforcement complaints and responses, and investigate matters previously authorized by the Commission.

It is imperative that a quorum be restored as soon as possible. If that is not possible in the near future, then it is critical that at least bipartisan membership be restored until quorum is reestablished.

2. Resource Management

During calendar year 2025, the FEC workforce experienced significant changes. Between October 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025, there were 52 separations. This separation rate is nearly double the average separation rate for recent years.³ Nearly every office at the FEC has lost staff. The most notable impact of staff departures is in the Offices of the Commissioners, where the majority of staff on board during FY 2025 have separated from the agency, largely due to the separations of four of the FEC's six Commissioners.⁴ The Office of General Counsel and the Office of Compliance also saw high levels of separations.

The FEC has long struggled with declining resources, which the OIG has specifically identified as management challenges for the last three years. It is more important than ever for senior leaders and program managers to approach staffing concerns strategically by realigning processes, planning for succession, and providing focused training to address skills gaps. We note that the current situation may be particularly challenging given the loss of so much institutional knowledge at one time. The departure of 52 employees represents a loss of 811 years' worth of institutional knowledge and government experience.

This significant change in the FEC's workforce creates a risk that the FEC may not be able to provide the level of service that Congress and the public expect of it, and that its ability to ensure the integrity of its operations and security posture could be hindered.

3. Modernization of Information Systems and Cybersecurity

Protecting data, IT systems, and networks from threats remains a top challenge. The FEC was established to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance system by providing transparency and administering and enforcing federal campaign finance laws. In its efforts to streamline transparency initiatives and improve business processes, the Commission is increasingly reliant on technology, as is society as a whole; as such, it is imperative that the Commission continue to prioritize cybersecurity.

The FEC continues to do its best to improve its cybersecurity given the constraints of its severely limited budget. In FY 2024, the FEC was awarded a grant from the General Services Administration's Technology Modernization Fund to help fund the modernization of a critical legacy system, FECFile. FECFile is the agency's free electronic filing software used by over 16,000 political committees and other filers.⁵ The current version of FECFile is almost 30 years old and is a desktop application that runs only on computers using Windows. In contrast, the new version under development, called FECfile+, is cloud-based and can be accessed from any computer – an important change that will significantly improve the experience of FEC filers.

As discussed in detail in our *Audit of the Security Patches and Vulnerabilities Management Programs*, many of the agency's IT challenges are directly attributable to the agency's reliance on legacy systems. The agency made some progress in reducing its dependence on those systems in FY 2025. For example, the agency retired the legacy advisory

³ The average separation rate for FY 2020 through FY 2024 was 24.4 separations per year.

⁴ When a Commissioner leaves the agency, the staff in their office transfer to another Commissioner's office, remain on staff with the Office of the Staff Director temporarily while closing the former Commissioner's office, or leave the FEC. Commissioners usually employ between two to four professional staff, depending on the Commissioner's leadership position.

⁵ FEC FY 2026 Congressional Budget Justification, at page 4.

opinion search application and replaced it with an online tool accessible on the FEC's website. The agency is now working to replicate that success by similarly transitioning two other legacy search applications: those for rule-making and rule-making comment entries. The agency is also working to develop modernized solutions for several mission-critical legacy applications used by the Commissioners' offices and Management to conduct crucial agency business.

Lastly, there are two mission-essential legacy applications used daily by both FEC staff and Commissioners that are not compatible with the most modern, secure operating systems. As a result, much of the agency is forced to use outdated, soon-to-be unsupported operating systems simply because it is beholden to these two tools. The agency is actively working on a path to switch to the most up-to-date operating system offered by the agency's vendors.

The most significant challenge to the success of the above IT modernization efforts at the FEC is funding. Although the TMF grant helped fund progress on the FECfile+ project, that funding expires in FY 2027. Without additional funding, the FEC is at risk of losing the momentum the original grant helped to provide.

4. Growth of Election Contributions

Much has changed in the 50 years since the FEC was first created by Congress. In 1976, the first presidential election cycle after the FEC was established, federal campaigns raised and spent approximately \$300 million. In stark contrast, during the 2024 presidential election cycle, total campaign committee receipts were approximately \$28.3 billion – a more than 9,000 percent increase.

The significant growth in campaign finance activity directly affects both the FEC staff and its IT infrastructure. When combined with the fact that the FEC's workforce has been shrinking over the last decade, this growth in reportable activity presents a unique challenge for the agency.

One division directly impacted by the increase in campaign election activity is the Office of Compliance's Reports Analysis Division (RAD). Unsurprisingly, RAD's workload has increased significantly in the last decade. The documents RAD must review each election cycle include the reports of receipts and disbursements prepared by political committees and other filers, statements of organization, and miscellaneous documents such as responses to FEC requests for additional information, filer requests for changes in filing frequency, and disavowal responses. During the 2008 presidential election cycle, RAD reviewed 144,166 individual documents, but by the 2024 presidential cycle, that number grew to 196,175 – a 36 percent increase.

Another area where the increase in reportable transactions is straining the FEC's resources is its IT infrastructure. Every single reportable transaction must be made publicly available on the FEC's website. As the FEC explained in its FY 2026 *Congressional Budget Justification*:

The FEC provides the public access to this reported campaign finance data on FEC.gov and directly through the FEC's Application Programming Interface (API), which permits users to customize their own data searches. Public interest in the FEC's campaign finance data continues to grow, with the FEC's campaign finance data API receiving over **648 million hits during the 2024 cycle** representing a **59 percent increase** over the number of API hits received during the 2020 presidential election cycle. These trends in the public's interest in campaign finance activity illustrate both how crucial it is for the agency to continue efforts to support and secure access to this data and how challenging it is to do so without additional funding tools...⁶ (emphasis added)

⁶ FEC FY 2026 Congressional Budget Justification, at page 5 (internal citations omitted).

The growth in reportable transactions means that the FEC must store enormous quantities of data both to conduct its FECA-related compliance and enforcement work and to meet its statutory requirement to make certain data available to the public. In January 2019, FEC needed only 1.91 terabytes to store its data; by October 2025, its need increased over 425 percent to 8.13 terabytes. In January 2019, the FEC hosted 1.48 terabytes of data on its website. That number grew to 7.5 terabytes by October 2025 – a more than 500 percent increase.

As the volume of campaign data continues to grow, the associated costs of cloud hosting and data processing inevitably increase. While the OIG is informed that the OCIO is actively optimizing the cloud environment and implementing a range of cost-saving measures, the growth of data remains persistent and often unpredictable, particularly during peak election years. The FEC may face difficult tradeoffs in the future, including the need to limit spending in other critical IT areas, such as long-overdue modernization initiatives.

5. Outdated Statutory Pay Structure

Executive-level compensation remains an issue for the agency. The Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) specifies the level of pay for Commissioners, the Staff Director, and the General Counsel.

The FECA states that FEC Commissioners are to be paid equivalent to level IV of the Executive Schedule. Executive Schedule pay for political appointees has been largely frozen since 2010, with one adjustment of 1.9% in 2019.⁷ As a result, FEC Commissioners receive a salary of only \$158,500, which is less than the salaries paid to FEC's Senior Level (SL) staff and most General Schedule (GS) staff at levels 14 and 15. Specifically, during FY 2025, 103 of the agency's staff received higher salaries than the Commissioners. Currently, all ten SLs, all GS-15s, and 58 of the agency's 68 GS-14s earn more than the Commissioners.

FEC Commissioners serve a term of six years, which is longer than traditional political appointees working in a presidential administration. We note that the much higher compensation available in the private sector can make it difficult for an Administration to recruit qualified individuals who are willing to take a substantial pay cut (for six years). The issue of non-competitive pay is exacerbated by the high costs of living and working in the Washington, D.C. metro area, which is routinely ranked among the top ten most expensive cities in the United States.

One possible solution would be to simply remove the freeze on commissioner salaries in favor of the annual published schedule pay rates that apply to non-political Executive Schedule employees. At the FEC, where all Commissioners are paid at the EX-IV rate, Commissioner pay would increase from \$158,500 to \$195,200, using the most recently published schedule.⁸ The full cost for all six Commissioners would increase by only \$220,200 from \$951,000 to \$1,171,200. This would not entirely address the pay issue, as senior leaders in the agency would still make more than the Commissioners, but it would at least be a start at addressing the pay disparity.⁹

⁷ The most recent U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) memorandum on the pay freeze for certain appointed political officials can be found at <https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/continued-pay-freeze-for-certain-senior-political-officials.pdf>.

⁸ The 2025 Executive Schedule pay rates can be found on the OPM website at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2025/EX.pdf>.

⁹ General Schedule staff are salary limited at the rate of pay for Executive Schedule Level IV. At this rate, Commissioner pay would be greater than or equal to the salaries of all FEC staff other than SL senior leadership.

The FEC is not the only agency affected by the freeze on commissioner pay. The OIG identified 15 other agencies led by commissions or boards that face a similar problem.¹⁰ If the pay freeze were lifted for all 15 agencies plus the FEC, the estimated cost to adjust the salaries of these 76 commissioners/board members would be approximately \$2.8 million.

The General Schedule has outpaced even the *unfrozen* salary levels of the Executive Schedule, which means the Staff Director and the General Counsel would similarly be paid less than many of the employees they oversee. This may have contributed to difficulty in permanently filling these positions, given that the FEC has not had a permanent General Counsel since 2013, and the Staff Director has been dual-hatted since 2011.

The OIG supports the FEC's legislative proposals designed to address the FEC's outdated statutory pay structure.

¹⁰ The OIG identified these agencies by examining all agencies led by a board or commission that have an Inspector General. We then removed from our list those agencies where the commissioners/board members were not all full-time Federal employees or where some commissioners/board members served in other capacities, such as Cabinet Secretaries or State Governors. We also removed from our list any agencies that had special pay structures in place for their board members, such as the Federal Reserve or the National Science Foundation. Therefore, please be aware that due to these exclusions, this list does not represent all commissioners/board members with frozen Executive Schedule pay. According to OPM's Fedscope website, as of September 2024 (the most recent period for which data is available), there were approximately 100 Federal employees paid at the EX-III level and 253 Federal employees paid at the EX-IV level.

Audits, Evaluations, and Reviews

Audit of the FEC's Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements OIG-25-01

Planning

Fieldwork

Reporting

Issued
12/17/2025

During this reporting period, the independent public accountants (IPA), Brown & Company Certified Public Accountants and Management Consultants (Brown & Company) completed final testing and issued the agency's fiscal year (FY) 2025 Financial Statement (FS) audit report on December 17, 2025.¹¹ The IPA determined that the FEC's financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects.

As in prior years, the IPA is required by the FEC OIG's contract to conduct additional testing on information systems (IT) controls, as the FEC is exempt from the Federal Information Systems Management Act (FISMA) and is not required to perform the annual FISMA audit.

Brown & Company did not report any material weaknesses, but it did report one significant deficiency related to ineffective implementation of a new inventory system, which resulted in five recommendations. There were no recommendations from the prior year's FS audit.

Evaluation of the FEC's Reporting on USASpending.gov EV-25-01

Planning

Fieldwork

Reporting

Issued

The OIG is conducting an evaluation of the FEC's compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). The DATA Act requires Federal agencies to report standardized financial and award data in a uniform manner in order to provide insight and transparency on government spending to policymakers and the public.

The goal of this evaluation is to ensure that the FEC's reported spending data provides transparency and accountability in federal spending. This evaluation will identify any gaps or discrepancies in the data and recommend improvements to enhance the integrity of financial reporting.

Work on this project was delayed by the government shutdown at the beginning of the fiscal year. The OIG anticipates that this evaluation will be completed and a report issued during the third quarter of FY 2026.

¹¹ The report was delayed due to the lapse of funding at the beginning of FY 2026.

Examination of FEC's Circular A-123 Internal Control and Enterprise Risk Management Programs OIG-25-02

Planning	Fieldwork	Reporting	Issued
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The OIG contracted with IPA firm Brown & Company to perform this engagement. The IPA is examining the FEC's implementation of OMB Circular A-123 requirements. The engagement will assess the FEC's compliance with OMB Circular A-123 and determine the effectiveness of the agency's internal control and Enterprise Risk Management programs. The IPA is currently in the fieldwork phase and we expect to issue the report during the next reporting period.

Pandemic Benefits Review R-25-01

Planning	Fieldwork	Reporting	Issued
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The OIG worked with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE's) Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to (1) identify whether any FEC staff improperly received pandemic benefits under the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program or Paycheck Protection Program during the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) assess whether any FEC staff were the victims of identity theft by individuals defrauding these programs. Several studies have shown that identity theft was a significant problem in the pandemic relief programs; accordingly, the OIG views this second objective as particularly important.

Unemployment Insurance Review R-26-01

Planning	Fieldwork	Reporting	Issued
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Similar to the Pandemic Benefits Review begun in FY 2025, the OIG will work with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) OIG to (1) identify whether any FEC staff have improperly received unemployment insurance benefits and (2) assess whether any FEC staff were the victims of identity theft by individuals defrauding this program.

Review of the Impact a Loss of Quorum Has on FEC Operations R-26-02

Planning

Fieldwork

Reporting

Issued

The OIG will examine the impact that a loss of quorum has on FEC operations. Specifically, the OIG will note what work is affected by the loss of quorum and what work continues as usual. To the extent that data is available, the OIG will seek to examine how prior losses of quorum impacted FEC operations, particularly the losses of quorum that occurred in September 2019-June 2020 and July 2020-December 2020. The OIG will report on any “best practices” or “lessons learned” that are identified.

Investigative Activity

The OIG has broad discretion to carry out investigations related to FEC programs and operations that the Inspector General determines are necessary or appropriate. There is a broad range of matters that fall within the OIG’s investigative purview, including violations of laws, regulations, or rules; mismanagement; abuses of authority; and more. Investigative activities may be initiated upon allegations or referrals received from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, FEC employees or contractors, Congressional committees, other agencies, or members of the public. The OIG may also investigate potential fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement identified through OIG audits, evaluations, or reviews.

In exercising its investigative authorities, the OIG works to develop products that are timely, clear, and credible, and to guard the identity of those who provide information to the OIG or are the subject of complaints. All investigations are carried out in accordance with the *CIGIE Quality Standards for Investigations*.

Investigative Activities (October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)	
Complaints received	39
Complaints closed (additional information in next table)	36
Other contacts with the public ¹²	23
Investigations initiated	1
Investigations closed	1
Investigative reports issued ¹³	1
Open investigations as of March 31, 2026	0
Persons referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for criminal prosecution	0
Persons referred to state or local prosecuting authorities for criminal prosecution	0
Indictments and criminal informations that resulted from any prior referral to prosecuting authorities	0

¹² These are communications that do not rise to the level of complaints because they are not FEC-specific, fail to state a complaint, or are resolved during the call.

¹³ This figure includes all reports of investigation and management advisories issued to the Commissioners and does not include the closing memoranda for any preliminary inquiries.

Investigative Activity

During the reporting period, the investigative team opened an investigation in which the OIG issued a final report to the Commission (Report of Investigation I25INV00101– Alleged Misuse of Government Property by Senior Government Employee¹⁴). The OIG initiated an investigation based on findings from the OIG’s Pandemic Benefits Review project. Specifically, while reviewing pandemic benefit data, the OIG identified an instance where a senior Government employee¹⁵ appeared to use their government-furnished laptop to apply for a business loan through one of the Small Business Administration’s pandemic programs in March 2020. The OIG’s investigation confirmed that the individual did indeed use their FEC-issued laptop to apply for the loan, contrary to federal ethics and computer use regulations. It appeared to be an isolated incident, however, as the OIG’s investigation did not identify any other instances of the individual using their government-furnished equipment or email address for other business-related purposes.

During the reporting period, the investigative team also conducted a preliminary investigation from a referral from the Office of General Counsel (OGC) involving an issue of personnel misconduct. The agency conducted an administrative investigation and provided a copy of the management report to the OIG. After reviewing the agency’s administrative investigation and the supporting evidence, the OIG did not believe that additional investigative activity was necessary for the personnel matter involved. The OIG did, however, open a preliminary investigation to review the circumstances surrounding that matter. The preliminary investigation substantiated no criminal or civil violations, wrongdoing, or misconduct. The OIG closed the preliminary investigation with a memorandum.

Complaint Activity

The OIG hotline provides a means for FEC employees, FEC contractors, and the public to communicate directly and confidentially with the OIG regarding allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Additionally, the OIG may open a complaint based upon information received from Congress, FEC management, or the results of an audit, evaluation, or review.

The OIG takes all matters referred to our office seriously. Accordingly, we carefully analyze all information received to determine the appropriate course of action, which could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Opening a full investigation:** These are complaints where there is sufficient evidence to indicate that a question of fact exists regarding whether or not there has been a violation of law, regulation, or policy.
- **Referring to FEC management or an existing FEC program or process:** These are situations where the issue presented is more appropriately handled by FEC management, such as matters that require Commission action, or where there is already an existing process for resolution of the matter, such as Equal Employment Opportunity complaints.
- **Referring to an external agency:** These complaints are outside of the jurisdiction of the OIG and so we refer them to the federal, state, or local agency that does have jurisdiction.

¹⁴ The report of investigation was issued on February 26, 2026 and all investigative activities were completed by March 4, 2026. However, the investigative file was not closed in our case management system until April 2, 2026 because of an administrative delay.

¹⁵ The Inspector General Act of 1978 defines a senior Government employee as an officer or employee in the executive branch who occupies a position classified at or above GS–15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15 of the General Schedule.

- **Referring internally to the OIG audit, evaluation, and review function:** Some complaints raise issues that are more appropriately explored through the OIG’s audit, evaluation, and review function. Such complaints are referred to the OIG’s auditors and program analysts for evaluation.
- **Assisting complainant:** In these complaints, the OIG has determined that the issue is best handled by an existing process or another entity, and the OIG informs the complainant about the options they may pursue.
- **Closing with no further action:** These are complaints that are frivolous, have already been addressed, provide insufficient detail for the OIG to take action, or otherwise warrant no further action by the OIG

Resolution of Closed Complaints October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	
Opened an investigation	1
Referred to FEC management or an existing FEC program/process	1
Referred to external agency	1
Referred internally to OIG audit/evaluation/review function	0
Assisted complainant	14
Closed with no action	18
Total¹⁶	36

¹⁶ Of the 36 closed complaints, one was initiated into a preliminary investigation that was not part of the resolution categories above. The OIG considered the preliminary investigation a separate course of action that we included in the total number of closed complaints.

Recommendation Follow-up Activity

As required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the OIG is responsible for, among other things, conducting audits, evaluations, and reviews of the FEC’s programs and operations and making recommendations for improvement. The OIG follows up on all recommendations that have been outstanding for more than six months and identifies the progress management has made in addressing such recommendations to date. Accordingly, the figures detailed herein do not include recommendations less than six months old.

Recommendations Open for Over Six Months as of March 31, 2026	
Reports	Recommendations Still Open
Review of Commission Directive 06, Handling of Internally Generated Matters (2022-10-001 , October 11, 2022)	# 1
Review of the FEC Travel and Purchase Card Program (SR-23-02 , August 1, 2023)	# 5
Audit of the FEC’s Security Patches and Vulnerabilities Management Program (OIG-24-02 , July 1, 2025)	# 1-10
Total Open Recommendations	12

Appendix I. Audit and Evaluation Reports Issued During the Reporting Period

Appendix I lists all audit and evaluation reports issued during the reporting period. For each report, the table lists the dollar value of questioned costs (including the dollar value of unsupported costs), the dollar value of any recommendations that funds be put to better use, and whether a management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period.

Report	Dollar Value of Questioned Costs		Dollar Value of Recommendations that Funds be Put to Better Use	Management Decision Made by End of Reporting Period
	Total	Unsupported		
Audit of FEC's FY 2025 Financial Statements	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

Appendix II. Recommendations for Corrective Action over Six Months Old as of March 31, 2026

Appendix II identifies recommendations made before the reporting period for which corrective action has not been completed as of March 31, 2026, including potential cost savings.

Report Title	Report Number	Date Issued	Total # of Recs.	# Open Recs.	Cost Savings
OIG Review of Commission Directive 06	<u>2023-10-001</u>	10/5/2022	1	1	\$0
Review of the FEC Travel and Purchase Card Programs	<u>SR-23-02</u>	8/1/2023	5	1	\$0
Audit of the FEC's Security Patches and Vulnerabilities Management Programs	<u>OIG-24-02</u>	7/1/2025	10	10	\$0
Totals			16	12	\$0

Appendix III: Peer Review Results

To ensure adherence to relevant professional standards, each OIG is subject to periodic external peer reviews. The Inspector General Act requires OIGs to report to Congress the results of any peer reviews it received or conducted during the reporting period, as well as any outstanding recommendations from a peer review and an explanation of the status of implementation of those recommendations.

Audit

Generally accepted government auditing standards require an organization conducting audits in accordance with those standards to undergo an external peer review at least once every three years.

On March 13, 2026, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) OIG issued a peer review of the FEC OIG's audit function. EAC OIG concluded that FEC OIG's audit policies and procedures were current and consistent with applicable professional auditing standards.

Investigation

CIGIE's *Qualitative Assessment Review Guidelines for Investigative Operations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* establish an independent external evaluation process for investigative operations. The objective of an investigative peer review is to determine whether internal control systems are in place and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance that an OIG's investigative operations comply with CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Investigations*. While the guidelines do not mandate that OIGs without statutory law enforcement authority, like the FEC OIG, undergo investigative peer reviews, CIGIE strongly encourages voluntary participation.

On July 14, 2025, the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) OIG issued a peer review of the FEC OIG's investigative function. FCA OIG concluded that the FEC OIG's investigative policies and procedures were in compliance with applicable professional standards and made no recommendations for corrective action.

Evaluation

The CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* require members of CIGIE that conduct inspections or evaluations under those standards to undergo an external peer review every three years. The FEC OIG's evaluation function is new and will undergo its first peer review during the next peer review cycle, which will span FY 2027-2029.

Appendix IV: Statutory Reporting Mandates for the OIG

Law	Requirement
Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. § 401, <i>et seq.</i>)	<p>§ 404(d) – IG must report expeditiously to the Attorney General whenever the IG has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law</p> <p>§ 405(b) – IG must submit specified information to Congress in Semiannual Reports</p> <p>§ 405(e) – IG must report immediately to the head of the agency when the IG becomes aware of particularly serious or flagrant problems, abuses, or deficiencies related to agency programs and operations; the agency head must transmit this letter to Congress within seven calendar days</p> <p>§ 406(c)(2) – IG must report to Congress if a request for information or assistance has been unreasonably refused or not provided by an agency head</p>
31 U.S.C. § 3521	IG must audit or oversee an independent audit of the agency’s financial statements
Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-531)	IG must summarize what the IG considers to be the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency and briefly assess the agency’s progress in addressing those challenges, to be included in the agency’s Annual Financial Report
Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 116-117)	IG must review agency compliance with improper payment reporting mandates
Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-194)	(1) IG must conduct periodic risk assessments of government purchase cards; (2) if agency’s purchase card spending exceeds \$10 million, IG must submit a joint report on purchase card violations semiannually; and (3) if agency’s travel card spending exceeds \$10 million, IG must conduct periodic audits or reviews of travel card programs
GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. § 306)	IG must develop a strategic plan for the OIG

Law	Requirement
Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-348)	IG must annually report on suspected violations related to trafficking in persons, investigations resulting from those suspected violations, the status and outcomes of those investigations, and related recommendations to improve agency programs and operations
42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-2	IG must periodically conduct a review of the agency’s implementation of its privacy and data protection policies

Index of IG Act Semiannual Reporting Requirements

IG Act	Description	Section/ Page
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(1)	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(2)	Recommendations made before the reporting period for which corrective action has not been completed	App. II
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(3)	Summary of significant investigations closed during the reporting period	Investigative Activity
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(4)	Convictions during the reporting period resulting from OIG investigations	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(5)	Information regarding each audit, inspection, or evaluation report issued during the reporting period	App. I
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(6)	Management decisions made with respect to any audit, inspection, or evaluation issued during the reporting period	N/A
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(7)	Information described under section 804(b) of the <i>Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996</i>	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(8)	Results of peer reviews completed during the reporting period or the last date of a peer review	App. III
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(9)	Outstanding recommendations from peer reviews	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(10)	Peer reviews conducted of another OIG during the reporting period	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(11)	Statistical table for investigative activities	Investigative Activity
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(12)	Description of the metrics used for developing investigative statistics	Investigative Activity
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(13)	Investigations of senior government employees where allegations of misconduct were substantiated	Investigative Activity

IG Act	Description	Section/ Page
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(14)	Description of any whistleblower retaliation	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(15)	Description of attempts to interfere with IG independence	None
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(16)	Closed audits, evaluations, or investigations involving senior government employees not disclosed to the public	None



Federal Election Commission
Office *of the* Inspector General

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, & ABUSE

OIG Hotline Portal

<https://fecoig-inv.secureocp.com/eCasePortal>



* Also accessible via:
<http://www.fec.gov/oig>

OIG Hotline Phone

202-694-1015



* Available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Eastern Time, Monday through Friday,
excluding federal holidays.

Or you may call toll free at 1-800-424-9530 (press 0; then dial 1015). You may also file a complaint by completing the Hotline Complaint Form (<http://www.fec.gov/oig>) and mailing it to: 1050 First Street, N.E., Suite 1010, Washington DC 20463.

Individuals including FEC and FEC contractor employees are encouraged to alert the OIG to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of agency programs and operations. Individuals who contact the OIG can remain anonymous. However, persons who report allegations are encouraged to provide their contact information in the event additional questions arise as the OIG evaluates the allegations. Allegations with limited details or merit may be held in abeyance until further specific details are reported or obtained. Pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the Inspector General will not disclose the identity of an individual who provides information without the consent of that individual, unless the Inspector General determines that such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation. To learn more about the OIG, visit our website at: <http://www.fec.gov/oig>.

Together we can make a difference!