

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Co-chairs

**Senator Shelley B. Mayer
Assemblymember Karen M. McMahon**

Members

**Senator Andrew J. Lanza
Assemblymember Joe Angelino
John Brickman, Esq.
Peter V. Coffey, Esq.
Ellen B. Holtzman, Esq.
Anne E. McCaffrey**

legethics.ny.gov

Legislative Ethics Commission

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Legislative Ethics Commission

The Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC) was created by Chapter 14 of the Laws of 2007 as part of the Public Employees Ethics Reform Act of 2007. The Commission was established to succeed the Legislative Ethics Committee, which consisted entirely of legislators and was originally established in 1987. Pursuant to Legislative Law Section 80, the Commission is a nine-member commission. Each legislative leader appoints one legislator and one non-legislator to serve on the Commission. The Legislative Law provides for the appointment of a fifth non-legislative member to be named jointly by the Temporary President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly.

For 2025, members of the Commission were:

- Senator Shelley B. Mayer (37th Senate District, parts of Westchester County)
- Assemblymember Karen M. McMahon (146th Assembly District, part of Erie County)
- Senator Andrew J. Lanza, (24th Senate District, part of Richmond County)
- Assemblymember Joe Angelino (121st Assembly District, parts of Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Madison, and Otsego counties)
- John M. Brickman, Esq. appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
- Peter V. Coffey, Esq., appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader
- Ellen B. Holtzman, Esq., appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate
- Ms. Anne E. McCaffrey, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader

Ethics Commission Reform Act

The Ethics Commission Reform Act of 2022 (ECRA) was signed into law on April 9, 2022. ECRA repealed operative provisions of the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011 and established the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) to replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE).

COELIG is responsible for investigations of alleged violations by legislators and legislative employees of §§73, 73-a or 74 of Public Officers Law. The LEC has jurisdiction to impose penalties for violations of the Public Officers Law by legislative members and staff after receiving substantial basis investigation reports from COELIG. Not later than 20 days after receiving a Substantial Basis Investigation Report (SBI) from COELIG, the LEC is required to make the report public in its entirety or refer the matter back to COELIG for additional investigation. (Legislative Law §80) Within 90 days of receiving a Substantial Basis Investigation Report (SBI) from COELIG, the LEC must dispose of the matter by concurring or disagreeing with COELIG's conclusions of law and the reasons therefor; stating whether any penalties have been assessed and the reasons therefor; and whether further actions have been taken by the LEC to punish or deter the misconduct at issue. (Legislative Law §80(9(b) and (10)).

The LEC's written disposition must be posted on its website within ten days after it is made.

In addition to reviewing Substantial Basis Investigation Reports and assessing appropriate penalties, the Legislative Ethics Commission issues advisory opinions to legislators and legislative employees, and receives and reviews financial disclosure statements of legislators, legislative staff and candidates for legislative office for filing with the LEC and the New York State Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG). In addition, the LEC responds to informal requests for guidance from legislators and legislative employees and maintains a public website.

The Commission is also required to develop educational materials and ethics training in conjunction with and at the request of the Legislature.

Legislative Ethics Commission Website

In compliance with Chapter 14 of the Laws of 2007, the Legislative Ethics Commission created and maintains a public website at legethics.ny.gov. Information on the website includes relevant statutes, bylaws, rules of the Commission, including the procedure for filing a complaint with the New York State Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG), and public documents. The website also provides forms and instructions, generic advisory opinions, and contact information. The website is updated on an ongoing basis.

Legislative Ethics Commission Meetings

Section 80 of the Legislative Law provides that the Commission shall meet bi-monthly and at such additional times as may be called for by the co-chairpersons jointly or any five members of the Commission. Five members of the Commission constitute a quorum, and the Commission has the power to act by majority vote of the total number of members of the Commission without vacancy. The Commission met on the following dates in 2025:

February 14, 2025

April 30, 2025

May 28, 2025

July 22, 2025

September 30, 2025

November 25, 2025

Financial Disclosure

The Legislative Ethics Commission is responsible for administering the financial disclosure requirements of Public Officers Law (POL) §73 and §73-a. Legislative members, legislative employees who earn more than the filing rate set forth in §130(1)(a) of the Civil Service Law (\$115,252 annually during 2025), employees who are designated by their appointing authorities as policy makers for disclosure purposes, and candidates for the state legislature must file the disclosure statement set forth in POL §73-a. All other legislative employees are required to file the financial disclosure statement described in POL §73(6).

Pursuant to §73-a, completed Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure for legislative members and employees must be filed on or before May 15 of the filing

year or thirty days after commencing employment. Generally, candidates for legislative office are required to file within ten days after the last day allowed by law for the filing of designating petitions. The Commission publishes a guidebook, also available online, to assist those individuals required to file the Annual Statement of Financial Disclosure. Commission staff also respond to numerous inquiries regarding the completion of the statement and welcome such inquiries by phone, e-mail, or in person at the Commission offices.

The statements are reviewed to ensure that the responses to questions are complete, internally consistent, and consistent with filings for prior years. The Commission may also seek to confirm information reported on disclosure forms with publicly available sources of information such as attorney registrations, professional licensing and corporate information. The Commission asks for additional information or clarification where it appears the filing may be deficient. Legislative members and staff may file amendments to their Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure to add or clarify information. Within forty-five days of receipt, the LEC forwards Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure to the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) for filing. Legislators' statements are publicly posted on the COELIG website.

All Senators, Assemblymembers and legislative employees who were required to file Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure in 2025 (reporting year 2024) filed.

The following chart summarizes the number of disclosure statements filed:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Legislative Members	209	213	213	213	211	212
Employees - File Rate	242	178	188	188	199	170
Employees -Designated Policy Makers	238	358	315	340	362	401
Candidates for Legislative Office	325	4	303	2	190	4
Short Forms Filed	2,872	2,741	2,825	2,993	2,771	2,981
Total	3,886	3,494	3,844	3,736	3,733	3,768

*Legislative Members who filed as candidates in a special election held prior to May 15th of the filing year are not required to refile on May 15th with the same information.

*Legislators who filed in May in their legislative capacities do not need to refile the same information if they seek reelection.

*2025 Filing numbers updated 1/13/2026.

Public Inspection

Completed Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure filed through calendar year 2010 are available for public inspection at the Legislative Ethics Commission offices or upon request. Categories of value for those years are redacted pursuant to Public Officers Law §80. Those disclosure forms filed in 2012 (for calendar year 2011) are available at the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government. A member of the public may obtain a copy of a statement upon request by mail, fax or e-mail.

Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure filed by legislators in 2013 (for calendar year 2012) and going forward are available online at the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government website, www.ethics.ny.gov, and are no longer redacted for categories of value. Statements of candidates and legislative employees are public information and are available from the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government upon request.

Legal Activity

Advisory Opinions

Upon the written request of any person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the Legislative Ethics Commission and the requirements of sections 73, 73-a and 74 of the Public Officers Law, the Commission renders confidential advisory opinions applying the relevant laws to particular, specific, facts of requests for advice. In 2025, the Commission issued a number of formal opinions on subjects including, post-employment restrictions, board positions, outside employment opportunities for legislators and employees, outside income questions. The Commission also issued formal advisory opinions in response to Legislative Joint Rule V requests. Legislative Joint Rule V provides that any member of the legislature who intends to undertake or who undertakes employment outside of his or her legislative position and expects to receive annual compensation in excess of 5,000 dollars from employment for services rendered or goods sold as part of a regular course of any business must submit to the Legislative Ethics Commission a written request for a formal advisory opinion.

The Commission also offered informal advice and guidance on a variety of requests from members of the legislature, candidates for legislative office, and legislative employees.

Complaints and Investigations

Complaints alleging violations of Public Officers Law §§ 73, 73-a and 74 must be filed with the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government. The instructions for filing complaints with COELIG are available on the LEC website. The Legislative Ethics Commission refers all parties who wish to file a complaint to the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government.

Pursuant to Legislative Law §80(11), the LEC refers matters for which the Commission has a “reasonable basis to believe” that a person subject to another state oversight body may have violated section seventy-three or seventy-four of the Public Officers Law to that oversight body.

Training

Pursuant to Section 94 of the Executive Law, members and staff of the Legislature are required to complete ethics training. This training program is provided by the Legislature, assisted by the Legislative Ethics Commission.

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 amended Executive Law Section 94 which implemented new training requirements for New York State Legislators and legislative staff in addition to statewide elected officials, state officers and employees and political party chairs.

The NYS Legislature had fully implemented the new training requirements in 2023. The new ethics training requirements include:

- A “comprehensive and interactive live-in person or live-on line ethics training course” which shall be completed within ninety days of appointment or employment and subsequently, every two years.
- The new requirements also require an on-line “ethics refresher course” which is required to be taken in alternating years after having completed the comprehensive and interactive live course.

The LEC, at the request of the Legislature, conducted 44 training sessions in Calendar Year 2025. All returning legislators completed their required ethics training for 2025 and the majority of legislative employees, approximately 96% overall, completed ethics training in 2025.

Additionally, although no longer mandatory, 423 new or returning employees completed online orientation training in 2025 in addition to their mandatory training.

	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	EMPLOYEES COMPLETED TRAINING	PERCENTAGE COMPLETED
SENATE	1181	1145	96.9%
ASSEMBLY	1424	1359	94.24%
LBDC*	176	176	100%
TOTAL	2781	2680	96.36%

* Legislative Bill Drafting Commission