Florida Department of State

Office of Inspector General

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

August 19, 2026

Cord Byrd, Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Melinda Miguel, Chief Inspector General
Executive Office of the Governor
Suite 1902, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Byrd and Chief Inspector General Miguel:

I am pleased to present the Office of Inspector General's Annual Report for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. This report, which was prepared in accordance with Section 20.055(8), Florida Statutes, summarizes the activities performed by the Office of Inspector General based on its statutory responsibilities. This report highlights the accomplishments, findings, and recommendations of significant audit and investigative activities completed during the 2025-26 Fiscal Year.

On behalf of the Office of Inspector General staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support, as well as all Department Managers and staff for their assistance and cooperation.

The Office of Inspector General remains committed to promoting efficiency, accountability, and integrity in our efforts to detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in Department programs.

Sincerely,

David Ulewicz
Inspector General

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BACKGROUND

The role of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to provide a central point for coordination of and responsibility for activities that promote accountability, integrity, and efficiency within the Department of State (Department). Section 20.055, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the Inspector General to submit an annual report summarizing its activities during the preceding fiscal year to the Secretary of State and the Chief Inspector General no later than September 30 of each year.

This report includes the activities and accomplishments of the OIG during the 2025-26 Fiscal Year (FY) and specifically details the activities and reports of the audit and investigative teams that make up the OIG.

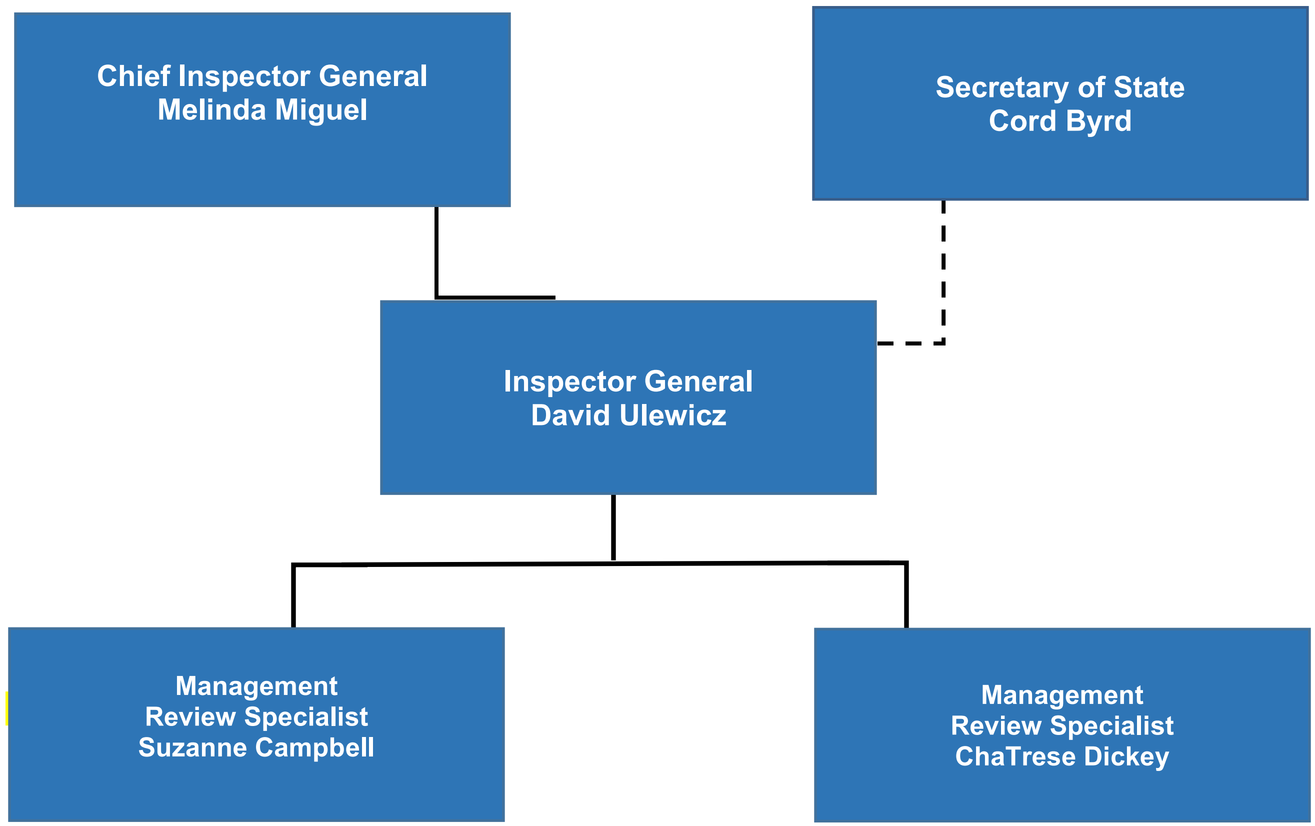
OIG RESPONSIBILITIES

The specific duties and responsibilities of the OIG as defined in Section 20.055(2), F.S., include:

- Directing, supervising, and coordinating audits, investigations, and management reviews of Department programs and operations.
- Advise in the development of performance measures, standards, and procedures to improve program performance.
- Keep the Secretary of State and Chief Inspector General informed concerning fraud, waste, abuse, and deficiencies in programs and operations, recommend corrective action, and provide progress reports.
- Ensure effective coordination and cooperation between the Auditor General, federal auditors, and other government bodies.
- Review the actions taken by the Department to improve program performance and make recommendations for improvement.
- Conduct, supervise, and coordinate other activities to promote economy and efficiency and activities designed to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in the Department.

ORGANIZATION

The Inspector General reports to the Chief Inspector General and is under the general supervision of the Secretary of State, as prescribed by statute, and has unrestricted access to all Department activities and records. As of June 30, 2026, the OIG consisted of the following:



INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit provides management with independent and objective assurance reviews and consultation regarding risk management, control, and governance processes. Internal audit work is performed in conformance with generally accepted Government Auditing Standards published and revised by the United States Government Accountability Office, and the General Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General published by the Association of Inspectors General.

Audit projects performed during the FY were based on the results of a risk assessment. An annual risk assessment is conducted by the Internal Audit Section and aids in developing the OIG Annual Work Plan. The Work Plan was based on the results of the risk assessment, prior OIG audit and investigative findings, external audits, and requests from management.

EXTERNAL AUDIT COORDINATION

Internal Audit serves as a liaison to external agencies that audit the Department and monitors and tracks findings and recommendations that result from these external audits as well as monitors and tracks management efforts to correct audit findings. During the FY, the OIG coordinated a Florida Auditor General audit, a federal OIG audit, and an Office of Performance and Budget monitoring review.

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

Section 11.45(2)(i), F.S., requires that the Auditor General, once every three years, review a sample of internal audit reports to determine compliance by the OIG with the current International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing or, if appropriate, Government Auditing Standards.

The Auditor General completed their most recent review of the OIG in May 2026 and reported the internal audit activity fully conformed with applicable professional auditing standards during the review period. Also, the Office of Inspector General generally complied with those provisions of Section 20.055, Florida Statutes, governing the operation of State agencies' offices of inspectors general internal audit activities.

INTERNAL AUDIT PROJECTS

The following summaries describe the audit engagements performed by the Internal Audit Section during the FY.

Enterprise Audit of Asset Management

Audit Report No. A-2025-DOS-001

The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the Department's controls and compliance with asset management requirements contained in the Florida Cybersecurity Standards (Rules 60GG-2.001 through 60GG-2006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.))

Due to the nature of this audit, we are not disclosing specific details of the issues in this report to avoid the possibility of compromising Department data and related IT resources.

However, we have notified appropriate Department management of the specific issues. The audit recommended improving information security controls related to these areas.

Ethics Program Audit

Audit Report No. A-2024-DOS-001

The purpose of this engagement was to evaluate the Department's design, implementation and effectiveness of ethics-related programs and activities.

The audit concluded while the Department's ethics-related programs and activities are generally sufficient, strengthening monitoring of the completion of ethics related training and timely submission of financial disclosures would improve the program's effectiveness.

Internal Control and Data Security Audit

Audit Report No. A-2526-DOS-001

The purpose of this engagement was to examine the internal controls the Department has in place to protect the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle data from unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure and the Department's compliance with the Data Exchange Memorandum of Understanding.

Due to the nature of this audit, we are not disclosing specific details of the issues in this report to avoid the possibility of compromising Department data and related IT resources. However, we have notified appropriate Department management of the specific issues. The audit recommended improving information security controls related to these areas.

Internal Control of Cash Management Audit

Audit Report No. A-2024-DOS-0021

The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the Department's internal controls and compliance to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of managing incoming cash, checks, and money orders.

The audit concluded the Department's internal controls for cash management were generally effective, however strengthening controls for tracking mail and incoming payments within the Division of Corporations would reduce the risk of manipulation or theft.

STATUS OF PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 20.055(8)(c)(4), F.S., requires the identification of each significant recommendation described in previous annual reports on which corrective action has not yet been completed. As of June 30, 2026, there were three reports described in previous OIG annual reports that had significant outstanding audit recommendations requiring corrective actions which had not been completed.

Audit of Cybersecurity Continuous Monitoring

Audit Report No. A-2022-DOS-003

Due to the nature of this audit, the outstanding recommendations are confidential and exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 282.318(4)(g), F.S. The audit recommended improving information security controls related to these areas.

Enterprise Audit of Cybersecurity Controls for Identity Management and Access Controls

Audit Report No. A-2023-DOS-002

Due to the nature of this audit, the outstanding recommendations are confidential and exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 282.318(4)(g), F.S. The audit recommended improving information security controls related to these areas.

Enterprise Audit of Incident Response, Reporting, and Recovery

Audit Report No. A-2024-DOS-002

Due to the nature of this audit, the outstanding recommendations are confidential and exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 282.318(4)(g), F.S. The audit recommended improving information security controls related to these areas.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Florida law requires State agencies to develop long-range program plans that include program outcomes and standards to measure progress toward program objectives. Section 20.055(2), F.S., requires the OIG to perform a validity and reliability assessment of agency performance measures and, if needed, recommend improvements. Our review determined the performance measures previously assessed were still valid and reliable.

FEDERAL AND STATE SINGLE AUDIT ACT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department provides funding and resources from State and Federal funding sources to Florida Counties, Cities, Towns, Districts, and many other non-profit organizations within the State. Because of the Department's relationship with these entities, the OIG provided technical assistance to support and improve the operations of those entities. Section 215.97, F.S., requires each non-State entity that expends a total amount of State financial assistance equal to or in excess of $750,000 in any fiscal year, of such non-State entity shall be required to have a State single audit, or a project-specific audit, for such fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this Section. The Catalog of State Financial Assistance includes for each listed State project the responsible State agency, standard State project number identifier, official title, legal authorization, and description of the State project, including objectives, restrictions, application, and awarding procedures, and other relevant information determined necessary. Federal pass-through grants administered by the Department are subject to Office of Management and Budget 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance requirements, provided the entity has expended $1,000,000 in Federal financial assistance in its FY.

Non-state entities which receive funding from the Department but do not meet the audit threshold for expenditures are required to complete a certification attesting they do not meet the threshold.

Each year, the OIG reviews audit reports and/or certifications submitted by entities that meet the requirements listed in Florida Statute, as well as the audit requirements listed in the 2 CFR

200 Uniform Guidance. During the 2025-26 FY, our office received and reviewed 1162 single audit reports and/or certifications.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Unit is responsible for receiving complaints and coordinating activities of the Department in accordance with the Whistle-blower's Act pursuant to Section 112.3187, and 112.31895, F.S. Additionally, the Unit receives and considers complaints that do not meet the criteria for an investigation under the Whistle-blower's Act and conducts, supervises, or coordinates such inquiries, investigations, or reviews as deemed necessary. Investigations and inquiries are conducted in accordance with the Association of Inspectors General Quality Standards for Investigations. Once an investigation report is completed, case disposition is reported to the appropriate management.

REACCREDITATION

Established in 1995, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) is a council of law enforcement and criminal justice professionals that establish standards for staffing, training, conducting, and documenting the investigative function. In 2008, the CFA introduced an accreditation profession for offices of inspectors general. In 2018 the OIG went through an initial accreditation assessment and was reaccredited in 2021. In July 2024, the Investigations Unit went through an additional assessment, resulting in its second CFA reaccredited.

Investigative Report Activities

Complaints are received through many sources by the OIG and are reviewed to determine an appropriate course of action. During the 2025-26 FY, the OIG closed 3 administrative investigations. Two were within the Division of Administrative Services and one was in the Division of Corporations. As of June 30, 2026, the OIG had two open investigations within the Division of Historical Resources Additionally, 637 complaint inquiries were performed to assess allegations, of which 4 were reviewed by the OIG and no investigation was deemed necessary, 11 were referred to the appropriate functional area for handling, and 622 were non-jurisdictional.

CASE SUMMARIES

II-01-05-2025-1659: A Department investigation determined the allegations of sexual harassment and conduct unbecoming were not sustained.

II-01-06-2025-1743: A Department investigation determined the allegations of sexual harassment, conduct unbecoming, and violence-free workplace were sustained.

II-01-05-2025-1805: A Department investigation determined the allegations of sexual harassment and conduct unbecoming were not sustained.

Office of Inspector General

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https://dos.fl.gov/offices/inspector-general/