



Summary of Investigation

Investigation Into Allegations of Use of Public Office for Private Gain by a Census Bureau Employee

Case No. 24-0595

Date Posted: August 7, 2025

► **What We Investigated** | We received a complaint alleging that a Census Bureau employee was romantically involved with the owner of a contracting company while also overseeing that company's work for the Census Bureau. We evaluated whether the employee's actions created a conflict of interest and whether they used their public office for private gain by participating in the oversight of a contract awarded to their romantic partner, who later became their fiancé.

► **What We Found** | Our investigation determined that the Census Bureau employee was previously employed by the contracting company in question and is currently in a romantic relationship with the owner of that company. In their official role at the Census Bureau, the employee worked alongside and helped oversee personnel from that same company, including evaluating their performance on the contract. Additionally, our investigation found that the employee lives at the company owner's personal residence and performed telework duties from that location.

The employee has been a federal employee for 4 of the past 6 years. During this time, the contracting company received more than \$42 million in government contracts from the Census Bureau.

The evidence gathered during the investigation indicates that the employee had a conflict of interest and used their public office for private gain by engaging in contract oversight for a company owned by their live-in romantic partner and for which they previously worked.

This case was declined for criminal prosecution. We referred our findings to the Census Bureau for any appropriate action.