



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001

**U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
Freedom of Information Act Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2025**

**I: Basic Information Regarding Report**

1. Interested parties with questions regarding this report may contact:
  - Camden Kelliher  
General Counsel  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 360-3160  
[ckelliher@eac.gov](mailto:ckelliher@eac.gov)
2. The report is available via the following link: [Election Assistance Commission Website - FOIA Reading Room](#)
3. A copy of the Report in paper form can be obtained by contacting the EAC via phone, email, or mail. Contact information for the EAC is found at [Contact U.S. EAC | U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

**II: Making a FOIA Request**

1. Please direct FOIA requests to the following:
  - Seton Parsons  
Associate Counsel  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 740-3519  
[sparsons@eac.gov](mailto:sparsons@eac.gov)
2. Please see below for a brief description of why some requests are not granted and an overview of certain general categories of the agency's records to which the FOIA exemptions apply:
  - Under the Freedom of Information Act, interested parties may request access to records held by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. An important part of the EAC response process is ensuring that certain protected information is not improperly disclosed when records are provided. Such information is withheld if disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions provided by FOIA. EAC records that are withheld from disclosure are typically protected by Exemptions 3, 4, 5, and 6, which encompass privacy concerns, predecisional and deliberative processes, and trade secrets.



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001

3. Below please find a link to agency FOIA regulations, including the agency's fee schedule. (NOTE: Agency FOIA Regulations were formerly listed at Section XI of the human-readable version of the Report).  
[eCFR :: 11 CFR Part 9405 -- Procedures for Disclosure of Records Under the Freedom of Information Act](#)

### III. Acronyms, Definitions, and Exemptions

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
EAC	U.S. Election Assistance Commission

- a. Administrative Appeal – a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
- b. Average Number – the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
- c. Backlog – the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
- d. Component – for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
- e. Consultation – the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency or component within the same agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency or component within the same agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
- f. Exemption 3 Statute – a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
- g. FOIA Request – a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "thirdparty" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001

- where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report. Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)
- h. Full Grant – an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
  - i. Full Denial – an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
  - j. Median Number – the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
  - k. Multi-Track Processing – a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
    - i. Expedited Processing – an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations
    - ii. Simple Request – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (nonexpedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
    - iii. Complex Request – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
  - l. Partial Grant/Partial Denial – in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
  - m. Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
  - n. Perfected Request – a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
  - o. Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
  - p. Range in Number of Days – the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
  - q. Time Limits – the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).

### **Descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions:**

- a. Exemption 1: classified national defense and foreign relations information
- b. Exemption 2: information that is related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- c. Exemption 3: information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

- d. Exemption 4: trade secrets and other confidential business information
- e. Exemption 5: inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges
- f. Exemption 6: information involving matters of personal privacy
- g. Exemption 7: records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
- h. Exemption 8: information relating to the supervision of financial institutions
- i. Exemption 9: geological information on wells

**IV. Exemption 3 Statutes**

Statute		Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
N/A		N/A	N/A	EAC	0	0

**V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of Start	Number of Requests Received	Number of Requests Processed	Number of Requests Pending as of End



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

	of Fiscal Year	in Fiscal Year	in Fiscal Year	of Fiscal Year
EAC	245	81	41	285
AGENCY OVERALL	245	81	41	285

**V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants / Partial Denials	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									TOTAL	
				No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below		
EAC	5	5	1	25	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
AGENCY OVERALL	5	5	1	25	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41

**V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
EAC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

**V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED**

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
EAC	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**V.I.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
EAC	0	7	7	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	7	7	0

**VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS**

Agency / Component	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
EAC	7	0	0	0	7
AGENCY OVERALL	7	0	0	0	7

**VI.C.(1). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
EAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**VI.C.(2). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS**

Agency / Component	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other *Explain in chart below
EAC	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

**VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS**

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
EAC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

**VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
EAC	13	13	7	19
AGENCY OVERALL	13	13	7	19





U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

	r of Days											
EAC	21	450	1	1125	1113	846	29	1129	1055	1055	1055	1055
AGENCY OVERALL	21	450	1	1125	1113	846	29	1129	1055	1055	1055	1055

**VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED**

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
EAC	18	287	13	1096	1128	1128	1128	1128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	18	287	13	1096	1128	1128	1128	1128	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
EAC	19	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	35
AGENCY OVERALL	19	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	35

**VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS**

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
EAC	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4

**VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
EAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

**VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	SIMPLE			COMPLEX			EXPEDITED PROCESSING		
	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
EAC	231	547	577	54	251	441	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	231	547	577	54	251	441	0	N/A	N/A

**VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
EAC	Date of Receipt	2021-02-26	2021-02-25	2021-02-24	2021-02-18	2021-02-17	2021-02-07	2021-01-25	2021-01-25	2021-01-22	2021-01-22
	Number of Days Pending	1143	1144	1145	1149	1150	1156	1166	1166	1167	1167
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	2021-02-26	2021-02-25	2021-02-24	2021-02-18	2021-02-17	2021-02-07	2021-01-25	2021-01-25	2021-01-22	2021-01-22
	Number of Days Pending	1143	1144	1145	1149	1150	1156	1166	1166	1167	1167

**VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING**

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
EAC	8	8	8	19	4
AGENCY OVERALL	8	8	8	19	4



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

**VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver**

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
EAC	19	10	12	12
AGENCY OVERALL	19	10	12	12

**IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs**

Agency / Component	PERSONNEL			COSTS		
	Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
EAC	0	1.20	1.20	135000.00	32000.00	167000.00



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

AGENCY OVERALL	0	1.20	1.20	135000.00	32000.00	167000.00
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**X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests**

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
EAC	0.00	0.0000
AGENCY OVERALL	0.00	0.0000

**XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used**

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
EAC	0



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20001

AGENCY OVERALL	0
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**XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings**

Agency / Component	Number of Records Posted by the FOIA Office	Number of Records Posted by Program Offices
EAC	4	6
AGENCY OVERALL	4	6

**XII.A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals**

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of
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U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

	End of Fiscal Year	End of Fiscal Year
EAC	285	0
AGENCY OVERALL	285	0

**XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS**

Agency / Component	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>Start</u> of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Processed</u> by the Agency During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that were <u>Pending</u> at the Agency as of <u>End</u> of the Fiscal Year
EAC	0	1	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	1	0

**XII.C. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND PENDING AT THE AGENCY**



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Consultation	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
EAC	Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF REQUESTS RECEIVED		NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
EAC	98	81	42	41



U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

AGENCY OVERALL	98	81	42	41
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**XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS**

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
EAC	243	285
AGENCY OVERALL	243	285

**XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF APPEALS RECEIVED	NUMBER OF APPEALS PROCESSED
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U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20001

	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
EAC	5	7	5	7
AGENCY OVERALL	5	7	5	7

**XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS**

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
EAC	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0