



## **Whistleblower Hotline Report** **As of June 30, 2024**

The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Hotline was established in November 2013 to provide a mechanism by which employees and citizens may contribute to the accountability, transparency, and oversight of the County by reporting suspected financial fraud, waste, and abuse. From inception in November 2013 through June 30, 2024, the Whistleblower Hotline received 362 reports.

The Whistleblower Hotline includes a toll-free hotline number (855-326-9623) and website ([reportlineweb.com/sanluisobispo](http://reportlineweb.com/sanluisobispo)) which are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are administered by an independent hotline provider. Reports may be submitted anonymously.

Reports received are reviewed by the County's Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Internal Audit Division in conjunction with County Counsel, Human Resources, and Department Heads, as appropriate.

17 reports were received in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24, ending June 30, 2024.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports received related to the following categories:

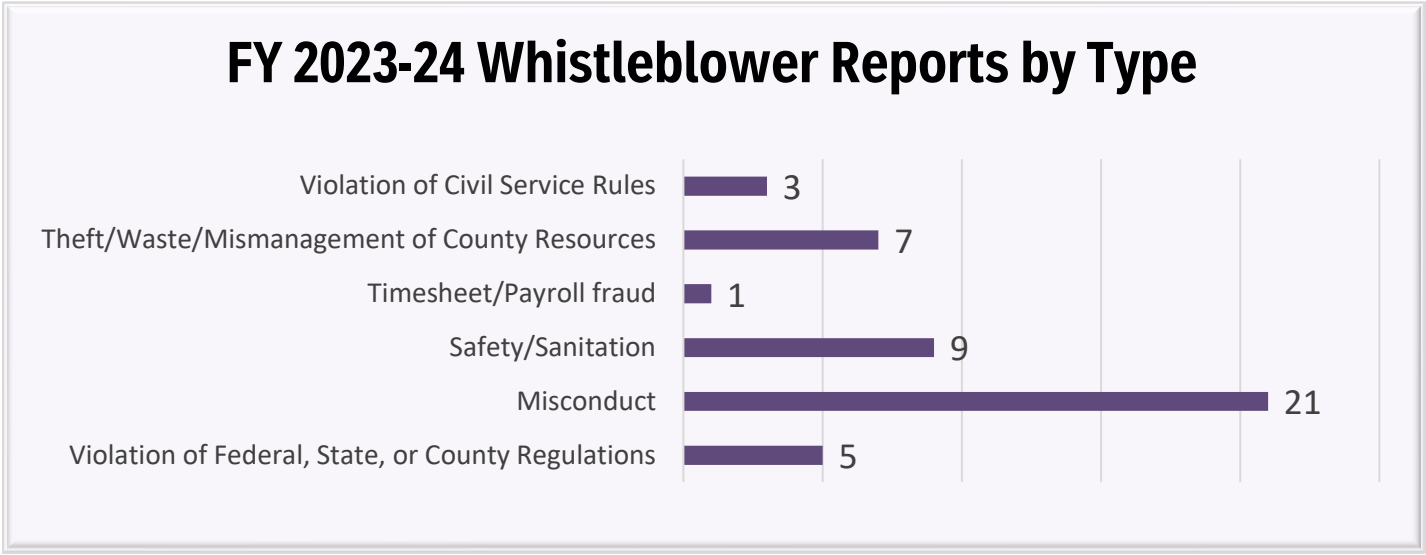
- Theft of Time (1)
- Misconduct (12)
- Safety (1)
- Violation of Federal/State/County Regulations (2)
- Violation of Civil Service Rules (1)

The disposition of the 17 cases include:

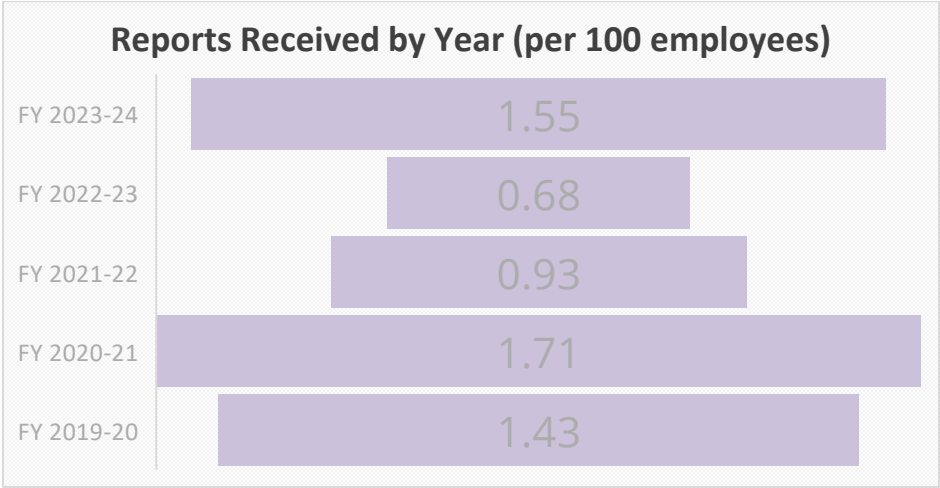
- Seven were referred to Human Resources.
- Five were referred to the appropriate Department Head.
- Four were related to non-County Operations and were referred to outside agencies.
- One is an open investigation.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Whistleblower Hotline received 46 reports, marking a 130% increase from the previous year's 20 reports. Three of the reports were investigated by the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney's Office brought arrest charges forward for one of the three cases, The defendant pleaded guilty to seven felony counts of misappropriation of public funds and admitted that his criminal taking was more than \$100,000 which resulted in a six-year sentence. Two of the FY 2023-24 Whistleblower reports

resulted in employee terminations, and one of the reports resulted in enhanced internal controls and policy definition at the department level.



In Fiscal Year 2023-24, there were 1.55 whistleblower reports received per 100 County employees. This is consistent with the industry average for 2023 of 1.57 reports<sup>1</sup> per 100 employees.



The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Program enhances controls and fosters accountability and oversight throughout the County by identifying potential fraud, waste, and abuse. This program supports the County’s vision of a well-governed community.

**Notes:**  
<sup>1</sup> Industry benchmark was reported by Navex Global, the County’s third-party hotline administrator, and is for calendar year 2023.