



For Immediate Release

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ICYMI: ECOT Still Owes Ohio \$117 Million, Rep. Crossman Demands Answers and Accountability from Attorney General's Office

Columbus, OH – [As reported by Cleveland.com](#), the now defunct charter school Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) still owes the state \$117 million related to the failed charter school's overstatement of enrollment which resulted in the state grossly overpaying for students that were not actually attending the school. The ECOT fraud scandal began during the same period when State Auditor Yost was giving ECOT and its founder awards for their audits. In response, Attorney General candidate Jeffrey Crossman released the following statement:

“It’s unacceptable that Dave Yost was handing out awards to ECOT while it was ripping off Ohioans. As Auditor he completely failed to uncover ECOT’s crimes by [ignoring credible whistleblower complaints](#), and as Attorney General he has failed to complete the work needed to recover the millions stolen from Ohio taxpayers,” said Crossman. “This represents a disturbing pattern with Yost, he’s all too willing to let Republican political donors off the hook and will look the other way when Ohioans deserve accountability. You can’t trust him to do his job and fight for Ohio taxpayers.” During his campaign for Attorney General in 2018, Yost pledged to hold ECOT accountable but has done precious little, including [delaying the lawsuit against William Lager](#) which seeks to recover taxpayer funds.

“Instead of doing his job, Yost is busy attacking women’s reproductive rights – his priorities couldn’t be more clear. We need to bring accountability back to our state, and we need answers on why this debt wasn’t discovered earlier and what the Attorney General plans to do to recover these funds.”

Key highlights from the Cleveland.com story:

- Years after becoming a controversial political talking point, the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow still owes the state more than \$117 million, according to a state audit released Tuesday.
- **Ohio Auditor Keith Faber said that included \$106.6 million to the Ohio Department of Education and another \$10.7 million to the Attorney General.**

- ECOT was once the largest online charter school in the state, with founder William Lager donating heavily to politicians, including Faber.
- **After two more years of scrutiny – and becoming a political scandal – the school closed its doors in 2018.**

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