

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS - COUNTY OF OCEAN

CODE OF ETHICS

In our representative form of government, it is essential that the conduct of public officials and employees shall hold the respect and confidence of the people. Public officials must, therefore, avoid conduct which is in violation of their public trust or which creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated.

To ensure propriety and preserve public confidence, persons serving in government should have the benefit of specific standards to guide their conduct and of some disciplinary mechanism to ensure the uniform maintenance of those standards amongst them. Some standards of this type may be enacted as general statutory prohibitions or requirements; others, because of complexity and variety of circumstances, are best left to the governance of codes of ethics formulated to meet the specific needs and conditions of the several agencies of government.

It is also recognized that under a free government it is both necessary and desirable that all citizens, public officials included, should have certain specific interests in the decisions of government, and that the activities and conduct of public officials should not, therefore, be unduly circumscribed.

Section 12 of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, N.J.S.A. 13D-23(a), provides that the head of each State agency shall promulgate a code of ethics to govern and guide the conduct of officers and employees of that agency. Pursuant to Section 12, we therefore, set forth the following Code of Ethics to govern and guide the conduct of officers and employees in the County Board of Elections.

The Code of Ethics hereinafter cited for officers and employees of the Ocean County Board of Elections shall be subject to the Provisions of 52:13D-23 - Paragraph 12 (e) (8).

1. No officer or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties in the public interest.
2. No officer or employee shall engage in any particular business, profession, trade or occupation which is subject to licensing or regulation by a specific agency of State Government without promptly filing notice of such activity with the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Elections is mandatory.

NOTE: This paragraph shall not be deemed to require notice of a motor vehicle license issued for non-commercial purposes.

3. No officer or employee shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or herself or for others.

4. No officer or employee shall act in his or her official capacity in any matter wherein he or she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity or independence of judgement.
5. No officer or employee shall undertake any employment whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity and independence of judgement in the exercise of his or her official duties.
6. No officer or employee shall accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred: that such a gift, service or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him or her in the discharge of his or her official duties.
7. No officer or employee shall knowingly act in any way that might reasonably be expected to create an impression or suspicion among the public having knowledge of his or her acts that he or she may be engaged in conduct violative of his or her trust as a State officer or employee.
8. No officer or employee shall use or appear to use information obtained in the performance of his or her duties and not available to the public for personal gain, direct or indirect.

"Violations of this code of ethics promulgated pursuant to this section shall be cause for removal, suspension, demotion or other disciplinary action by the State Officer or agency having the power of removal of discipline. When a person who is in the classified civil service is charged with a violation of such a code of ethics, the procedure leading to such removal or discipline shall be governed by any applicable provisions of the Civil Service Law and the Rules of the Department of Civil Service. No action for removal or discipline shall be taken except upon the referral or approval of the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards."

WE hereby declare that the Code of Ethics set forth are intended to be supplementary to all standards provided in Chapter 182 of the Laws of 1971 and further that this Code, upon becoming effective pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 182 of the Laws of 1971 (N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23) shall supersede all previously adopted Codes of Ethics of the County Board of Elections.

Joseph Buckelew, Chairman
Alfonso Santoro, Secretary-Comm.
Diane Legreide, Member
Adelaide Portash, Member

Attest:

Dated at the Offices of the Ocean County
Board of Elections this 15 day of May 1979