

SOMERSET BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
CODE OF ETHICS

Chapter 182 of the Laws of 1971 (N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.) known as the "New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law," contained the following legislative finding: "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."

Section 12 of that Act (N.J.S.A. 52:13D-23) further 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, I therefore, set forth the following rules and regulations to govern and guide the conduct of officers and employees in the County Boards of Elections.

1. No officer or employee of this Board 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 of this Board 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 Chairman or Secretary of the County Board of Elections.

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 of this Board 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 of this Board 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 judgment.
5. No officer or employee of this Board shall undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity and independence of judgment in the exercise of his or her official duties.
6. No officer or employee of this Board 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 of this Board 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 of this Board shall willfully disclose to any person, whether or not for pecuniary gain, any information not generally available to members of the public, which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his official duties. No officer or employee for the purpose of pecuniary gain, whether directly or indirectly, any information not generally available to members of the public which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his official duties.

Violations of this Code of Ethics shall be cause for removal, suspension, demotion or other disciplinary action by the State officer or agency having the power of removal or discipline. When a person who is in the classified civil service is charged with a violation of this 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 such action for removal or discipline shall be taken except upon the referral or with the approval of the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.

I 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 Boards of Elections.

Date: March 27, 1979

Somerset County Board of Elections

Carl E. Madsen, Chairman  
John f. Guerrera, Secretary-Commissioner  
Robert A. Kelley, Assistant Chairman  
Peter P. Krochta, Assistant Secretary