



INDEPENDENCE
★ MISSOURI ★

CODE OF ETHICS

City of Independence, Missouri

June 12, 2023

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Ethics Reform

Larry Blick	At-Large
Allen Garner	At-Large
Jim Schultz	Former Councilmember
Scott Roberson	Former Councilmember
Sarah Wimberley	Ministerial Alliance
Christine Ann Hughes	Board of Ethics
Carol Salinas	Board of Ethics

Research

Cameron, MO

Cedar Rapids, IA

Columbia, MO

Creve Couer, MO

Dallas, TX

Davenport, IA

Fort Smith, AR

Kansas City, MO

Lawrence, KS

Lee's Summit, MO

Lexington, KY

Minneapolis, MN

New Orleans, LA

O'Fallon, MO

Olathe, KS

Raleigh, NC

San Antonio, TX

San Diego, CA

San Jose, CA

Springfield, MO

Topeka, KS

Westminster, CO

Wichita, KS

RESEARCH

- National Civic League: Model City Charter
- Independence City Charter
- Independence City Ordinance: Board of Ethics
- Missouri Statutes
- Missouri Ethics Commission

WHY HAVE A CODE OF ETHICS?

- Foster public trust in the integrity of city government
- Stricter standards in the public sector
- Appearance of conflicts creates suspicion
- Standards of conduct, disclosure requirements and enforcement mechanisms
- Helps create trust
- Educates officials and the public about appropriate conduct

To whom does the code apply?

- Elected officials
- Members of boards and commissions
- City employees
- Former officials and employees
- Those doing business with the city
- Information for the public, donors, those seeking employment, and persons wanting favorable treatment from the City.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Public service is a public trust
- Confidence in integrity, independence, and impartiality
- All must adhere to ethical conduct
- Avoid the appearance of impropriety

CURRENT CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

- Use of public office for private gain
- Unfairly advancing/impeding private interests
- No gifts
- Misuse of confidential information
- Representing private interests
- Conflicting outside employment
- Using the public property for private purpose
- Soliciting campaign contributions from employees
- Financial interest in contracts

FORMER CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

- Maintain confidentiality
- No representation of private interests for two years
- No financial interest in discretionary contracts for one year

DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CITY

- Applies to:
 - Discretionary Contracts
 - Real Estate Transactions
 - Land Use Decisions
- Inappropriate Contacts
- Political Contributions

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Personal Financial Disclosure Statements

- Why financial disclosure?
- State requirement:
 - Elected officials
 - City Manager
 - City Counselor
 - Purchasing Manager

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE (continued)

- Others who make or recommend final decisions:
 - Planning Commission
 - Board of Adjustment
 - Board of Building and Engineering Appeals
 - Board of Ethics
 - Industrial Development Authority
 - Municipal Judges
 - Subordinate City Managers
 - Department Directors

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE (continued)

- Enforcement:
 - City Clerk notifies MEC
 - MEC notifies city officials to use the MEC disclosure form
 - City enforces compliance
 - Penalties

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- National Civic League:
 - Many cities adopting campaign finance laws
 - Reason: large amounts of private money in local elections
 - Public perception: money-having distorting influence on the democratic process
- \$1,000 limit in primary and \$1,000 in general

BOARD OF ETHICS

- Five-member board
- Jurisdiction: violations of the Code of Ethics
- Any person may file a complaint
- Penalties for false statements and frivolous complaints



ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Responsibility:

City Clerk

City Counselor

City Manager

Availability to Public

Orientation and Training





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Questions?