

What is the Milwaukee County Ethics Board?

Milwaukee County Ethics Board is six citizen members, each nominated by a community organization, appointed by the County Executive, and approved by the County Board. The Ethics Board:

- interprets the Ethics Code;
- issues formal and advisory opinions; and
- investigates potential violations of the Code.



We encourage you to be proactive about contacting the Ethics Board with potential ethics issues. Even if an action is not prohibited by the Code, you should consider whether an action could still look like a conflict of interest. If so, you should contact the Ethics Board to discuss the matter.

The Ethics Board meets at least four times per year, and the Ethics Board staff are available Monday to Friday to help you with questions or concerns about whether certain actions might raise ethical issues under the Code.

**We look forward to assisting you
and wish you success
with Milwaukee County!**

DISCLAIMER

This brochure highlights certain aspects of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code. In an effort to convey the meaning and purpose of the Ethics Code in the clearest manner, this brochure is written in plain language and may portray examples of ethical behavior. This brochure is not intended to encompass all the aspects of ethical concerns faced by individuals or groups affected by Milwaukee County's Ethics Code. This brochure is also not intended to replace an advisory opinion, which can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Ethics Board at the address below.



Milwaukee County Ethics Board

Courthouse Room 212
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
[www.county.milwaukee.gov/
ETHICSBOARD8460.htm](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/ETHICSBOARD8460.htm)

Phone: 414-278-5332

Fax: 414-223-1897

E-mail: mcethicsboard@milwenty.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Milwaukee County Ethics Board

Welcome New Milwaukee County Officials & Employees



Courthouse Room 212
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Tel: (414) 278-5332

Fax: (414) 223-1897

“The ethical county public official or employee accepts the responsibility that his or her mission is that of servant and steward to the public.”

Ethics Code, Ch. 9.01(2)(c).

Milwaukee County employees and officials represent and serve the citizens of Milwaukee County. The Milwaukee County Ethics Code provides guidance on how to responsibly and professionally handle potential conflicts of interests between their private interests and the public interest.



The Code contains general principles and specific standards of conduct for employees and officials. It does not address all of the subjects we think of in the usual definition of “ethics.” Instead, the Code is about ethical conduct in public service: addressing potential conflicts of personal and public interests and promoting government integrity.

This brochure is a plain language summary to introduce you to some of the principles and standards in the Code. Not all principles or standards are discussed in this document. Please consult the full text of the Ethics code and contact the Ethics Board for specific advice.



Ethical Principles

Ch. 9.01(2)

The ethical county public official or employee should:

- Promote the public interest and confidence in County government
- Protect County funds and property
- Be diligent, prompt, and respectful
- Effectively and efficiently work with others
- Comply with laws and regulations and impartially apply them



The ethical county public official or employee should not:

- Engage in favoritism or other behaviors that could make others doubt his or her impartiality or fairness
- Improperly influence or attempt to influence other officials for his or her private benefit
- Accept anything of value offered to influence his or her official actions



Standards of Conduct

Ch. 9.05 & 9.06

Do not use your position to obtain money, benefits, services, or other things for your private use

Do not solicit or accept gifts that could be seen as attempts to influence or reward you

Do not use privileged information for financial gain or personal purposes

Public officials cannot give anything worth more than \$25 to employees; employees cannot accept anything worth more than \$25 from officials

Do not conduct campaign or political activities while at work and on duty

After you leave County service, you will be subject to limits on your contacts with the County



If these standards of conduct are violated, the Ethics Board can impose penalties.

The Code is the *minimum* standard of ethical conduct; employees and officials are encouraged to go above and beyond these expectations.

The Front Page test: Would you want your action reported on the front page of the paper?

How might your action appear to the public? Would your action give you more or less confidence in County government if another County employee or official did it?

