

December
2019

Promoting
Milwaukee County
Government
Integrity

ETHICALLY SPEAKING

Milwaukee County Ethics Board

Statements of Economic Interests

What is a Statement of Economic Interests?

Milwaukee County officials, candidates and certain employees must file statements of economic interests (SEIs) with the Ethics Board. SEIs are open to public inspection with the purpose of disclosing the filer's personal financial relationships. In this way, they are instrumental in promoting public trust and ensuring public officials, appointees and employees are serving the public interest.

How does the public benefit?

An SEI helps provide and promote transparency and accountability in two ways:

1. It makes a filer's personal financial interests open information available to the public, and
2. It reinforces a filer's awareness of their potential conflicts of interests, reminding them when it's best to abstain from participating in decision making that could be deemed a conflict.

Both of these elements help ensure that Milwaukee County operates with the public's best interests in mind.

How do I know if I need to file?

Under Milwaukee County's Ethics Code (Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances), all officials (elected and appointed) and candidates must file an SEI. But for all other County employees, there's one question to ask yourself:

Do I have the authority to award or execute contracts related to:

- Purchase agreements,
- Construction of public works, or
- The sale or leasing of any real estate?

If you can answer yes, you may have to file an SEI. Talk to your supervisor or contact the Ethics Board if you have any questions.

Where can I find the forms?

The Ethics Board circulates a given year's SEI forms and instructions to annual filers just before the end of the previous year.

To find copies of the year's SEI forms and instructions, you can visit the County Connect page and select Forms Library under the Info Bank tab.

When are they due?

Annual filers = Within 30 days after the close of the calendar year

Elected officials* = Within 30 days of taking office

Candidates for elected office = By the Friday following the date of filing nomination papers.

* Newly elected officials are required to file an SEI with their nomination papers and, if elected, within 30 days after taking office. However, these filings will fulfill that year's annual filing requirement.



About the Ethics Board

The Ethics Board meets four times a year (February, May, August, & November).

The Board is the primary source of interpretation of the Ethics Code.

They provide Advisory Opinions and enforce the Code through investigation, hearings, and resolution processes.

Any County official, appointee, employee, or citizen may bring a matter or question before the Board.

Be Proactive!

You are always welcome to reach out to the Ethics Board office with questions regarding ethics issues or for additional clarification. Your questions and concerns are handled confidentially by our office as well as the Board.

it never hurts to ask!

The Ethics Board staff is available to discuss any ethics questions or concerns you may have.

Contact the Ethics Board

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