

November
2017

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 (SEI's). SEI's are open to public inspection with the purpose of disclosing the filer's personal financial relationships.

SEI's provide transparency and ensure accountability in two ways:

1. It provides the necessary information to the public about the filer's personal financial interests to ensure that they are making decisions in the best interest of the public.
2. It serves as a reminder to the filer of potential conflicts of interest so the filer can abstain from making or participating in governmental decisions that are deemed conflicts of interest.

Who is required to file?

Pursuant to the Ethics Code (Chapter 9 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances), (i) any official, (ii) candidate or (iii) employee with the authority to award or execute contracts such as purchase agreements, construction of public works, and/or real estate sales or leases. The Milwaukee County Ethics Board also has the discretion to require members of boards and commissions to file an SEI. Otherwise, the Ethics Code requires department heads to determine which subordinates should be required to file an SEI, (taking into account the duties and responsibilities listed above).

When are required filers to submit their SEI's?

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.

SEI's are instrumental in promoting public trust and ensuring public officials, appointees and employees are serving the public interest.



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About the Ethics Board

The Ethics Board meets quarterly (February, May, August, & November). The Board is the primary source of interpretation of the Ethics Code and provides Advisory Opinions and enforces 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

Courthouse Room 212-E

901 North 9th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone: (414) 278-5332

Fax: (414) 223-1897

ethics@milwaukeecountywi.gov