

New Candidate Process for the Town of Bladensburg Ethics Commission

1. Responsibilities of the Ethics Commission: The Ethics Commission is responsible for:

- Issuing advisory opinions on Ethics Law-related questions.
- Granting exemptions from certain provisions of the Ethics Law, when appropriate.
- Investigating alleged violations of the Ethics Law.
- Enforcing compliance with the Ethics Law.
- Completing and submitting required ethics forms to the state by October 1st each year.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

- Commission members must demonstrate personal integrity and have recognized knowledge of and interest in government and civics.
- Candidates must not be lobbyists, government officials, or employees (except those working at a college, university, or similar institutions), nor can they be candidates for elected office.

3. Initial Interview:

- A brief interview will be conducted with all new appointees to the Ethics Commission.
- The goal of the interview is to ensure candidates understand the responsibilities of the position they are volunteering for.

4. Post-Interview Meeting:

- After the interview with the Clerk and potential appointees, a separate meeting should be scheduled with the Town Council and Clerk to discuss the interview findings.
- The Town Council will review the gathered information before formally considering the candidate for the appointment.

Example Interview Questions for Ethics Commission Candidates:

1. How long have you lived in Bladensburg?
2. Why are you interested in serving on the Ethics Commission?
3. Do you have any relevant experience in ethics, governance, or law?

4. Are you comfortable making tough ethical decisions when necessary?
5. Can you share any volunteer experiences that may relate to this role?
6. Are you able to commit the required time for this role, especially during the six months leading up to election time?
7. How would you handle conflicts of interest or personal biases in decision-making?
8. How would you ensure your personal views do not influence your decisions as a member of the Ethics Commission?