

# City of Columbus

## Conflict of Interest Policy for Boards and Commissions

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### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that members of City of Columbus boards and commissions perform their duties in an impartial manner, free from personal, financial, or organizational conflicts of interest, and to maintain public trust in municipal decision-making.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all appointed and elected members serving on City of Columbus boards, commissions, committees, and advisory groups.

### **3. Statutory Authority**

This policy is adopted consistent with Wisconsin Statutes §19.59, §946.13, and applicable Open Meetings Law provisions.

### **4. Standards of Conduct**

Members shall not use their position for private benefit, shall avoid actions where they have a substantial financial interest, and shall not accept items of value that could influence official decisions.

### **5. Disclosure**

Members must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest at the earliest opportunity and prior to participation in related matters.

### **6. Recusal**

Members with a conflict must abstain from discussion and voting and ensure the recusal is recorded in the official minutes.

## **7. Relatives Employed by the City**

Members with immediate family employed by the City must disclose the relationship and recuse themselves from matters that could affect the relative's employment or financial interests.

## **8. Public Contracts**

Members shall comply with Wisconsin Statute §946.13 and shall not participate in contracts in which they have a private financial interest.

## **9. Enforcement**

Violations may result in censure, removal, or referral to legal authorities.

## **10. Effective Date**

This policy becomes effective upon adoption by the City Council.