

**ORDINANCE TO
REPEAL AND CREATE SECTIONS 65-8 AND 65-9 OF THE CITY OF
WATERTOWN GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**SPONSOR: MAYOR ROBERT STOCKS
FROM: ETHICS BOARD**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §65-8 Applicability and §65-9 Violations and penalties are hereby repealed and created to read as follows:

~~§ 65-8 Applicability.~~

~~This code shall be operative in all instances covered by its provisions except when superseded by an applicable statutory provision and statutory action is mandatory or when the application of a statutory provision is discretionary but determined by the Ethics Board to be more appropriate or desirable.~~

§ 65-8 Disclosure of Interests.

A. Definitions. The following definitions apply in this subsection relating to Disclosure of Interests:

- 1) "Appointed official" means any officer of the City of Watertown appointed under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 62.09. The term includes all City of Watertown department and division heads but excludes election officials and members of City boards and commissions, except for members of the Finance Committee and the Public Works Commission.
- 2) "Elected official" means all officers of the City of Watertown established pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 62.09, or its authority, who are elected by the voters.

B. Disclosure of Interests; By Whom Required. The following shall file a Statement of Interests as provided in this subdivision:

- 1) Elected officials as set forth in Section 65-8(A)(2).
- 2) Candidates for elective office of the City of Watertown.
- 3) Appointed officials as set forth in Section 65-8(A)(1), which shall include members of the Finance Committee and Public Works Commission.

C. Statement of Interests, When To File.

- 1) All persons who file nomination papers for an elective office of the City of Watertown shall at the time of filing of such nomination papers also file a Statement of Interests with the City Clerk.
- 2) Persons to be appointed to the Finance Committee and Public Works Commission shall file the Statement with the City Clerk at least ten (10) business days before their names are submitted to the Common Council for confirmation.
- 3) Employees who are appointed or reappointed to their positions subject to confirmation by the Common Council shall file the Statement with the City Clerk at least ten (10)

business days before their appointments or reappointments are submitted to the Common Council for confirmation. All other employees who are required to file the Statement shall file the Statement with the City Clerk within ten (10) business days after they begin work as City employees.

- D. Annual Filing. Each person required to file the Statement shall annually file an updated Statement with the Clerk no later than the first Tuesday in January of each year, except that this provision shall not apply to candidates for elected office who have filed the Statement with their nomination papers pursuant to Section 65-8(C)(1).
- E. Amending the Statement of Interests.
- 1) If, after filing the Statement, the filer becomes aware of errors or omissions in the original Statement, she or he, as soon as possible, shall attach an Amendment to her or his original Statement to reflect accurately the required disclosures.
 - 2) Any amendment to the Statement which is filed after the filing of a complaint against the person required to file shall not be a defense to the complaint, but the Ethics Board may, in its discretion, consider the amendment as mitigating circumstances.
- F. Form of Statement. The person filing any Statement of Interests required under this subsection shall file such Statement approved by the Ethics Board and provided by the City Clerk.

§ 65-9 Applicability.

This code shall be operative in all instances covered by its provisions except when superseded by an applicable statutory provision and statutory action is mandatory or when the application of a statutory provision is discretionary but determined by the Ethics Board to be more appropriate or desirable.

~~§ 65-9 Violations and penalties.~~

~~A determination that a public official's or public employee's actions constitute improper conduct under the provisions of this chapter may constitute a cause for removal from office, termination of employment, suspension, reprimand or other appropriate disciplinary action. As an alternative or in addition to sanctions imposed herein, any individual violating the Ethics Code shall be subject to a nonreimbursable forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 as determined by the City of Watertown Common Council.~~

§ 65-10 Violations and penalties.

A determination that a public official's or public employee's actions constitute improper conduct under the provisions of this chapter may constitute a cause for removal from office, termination of employment, suspension, reprimand or other appropriate disciplinary action. As an alternative or in addition to sanctions imposed herein, any individual violating the Ethics Code shall be subject to a nonreimbursable forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 as determined by the City of Watertown Common Council.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force the day after its passage and publication.

<i>DATE:</i>	<i>April 21, 2026</i>		<i>May 5, 2026</i>	
<i>READING:</i>	<i>1ST</i>		<i>2ND</i>	
	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
DAVIS				
LAMPE				
BERG				
NITECKI				
BLANKE				
SMITH				
ARNETT				
HAASE				
MOLDENHAUER				
MAYOR STOCKS				
<i>TOTAL</i>				

ADOPTED May 5, 2026

CITY CLERK

APPROVED May 5, 2026

MAYOR