THE CITY OF WATERTOWN
Opportunity runs through it.

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 16, 2026

To: Ethics Board

From: Ali Panagopoulos, City Attorney

RE: Statement of Economic Interests form

At the July 21st Common Council meeting, the Council reviewed the Ethics Board's revisions to the City of Watertown's Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) form. During that discussion, several additional questions were raised that the Council requests the Ethics Board's input on before proceeding with final approval of the form.

The Council asks the Ethics Board to consider and provide guidance on the following items:

1. Should all references to minor children be removed from the SEI form? The Council seeks clarification on whether disclosure of financial interests related to minor children is necessary or appropriate.
2. Should the form include the name of a candidate's or appointed/elected official's spouse or partner? If so, the Council seeks guidance on the appropriate scope and purpose of such disclosure.
3. Is there a recommended ownership threshold, minimum value, or other trigger that should determine when stocks must be disclosed under Section B?
4. Should the SEI form require disclosure of leases or other forms of ownership interests in businesses located within the City of Watertown, regardless of whether those entities directly conduct business in the City?
5. Under Section D, should the disclosure area be expanded to include interests located within the area subject to the City's extraterritorial plat review authority?
6. Should the SEI form include an explicit statement explaining the extent to which the information provided is confidential, or whether it may be subject to public disclosure under applicable open records laws?