

Summary of Local Ethics Board Ordinances

Municipality	Ethics Board	Code/Ordinance	Membership / Structure	Appointment	Authority	Notes	Website
Beloit	Yes	§1.73 - Board of Ethics.	7 members: 5 ex officio members (chairs/presidents of specified boards/commissions) and 2 citizen members. Citizen members must be Beloit residents and are subject to additional qualification requirements.	Citizen members nominated through the Appointment Review Committee and appointed by the City Council President, subject to Council confirmation.	Investigates complaints, conducts hearings, issues subpoenas, administers oaths, issues advisory opinions, and may recommend discipline or impose penalties.	Comprehensive ethics program with detailed member qualifications, residency requirements, term limits, conflict-of-interest provisions, due process procedures, and enforcement authority.	https://library.municode.com/wi/beloit/codes/code_of_or_dinances?nodeId=CH1GO_SUBCHAPTER_DBOCOCO_1.73BOET
Delavan	No formal Ethics Board	§2-6-7 Advisory Opinion	No standing Ethics Board identified. Ethics matters are handled through the City Attorney and General Operations Committee.	N/A	City Attorney provides advisory opinions; committee reviews recommendations.	Uses an advisory review model rather than a dedicated ethics commission.	https://ecode360.com/37437819
Edgerton	Limited	§ 47-7 Advisory Opinions.	No full Ethics Board structure identified; ethics review primarily handled through City Attorney.	N/A	City Attorney provides advisory review of ethics matters.	Similar to Delavan; relies on legal review rather than a standing ethics commission.	https://ecode360.com/37884567
Elkhorn	Yes	§ 1.06(13) - Code of Ethics - Finance and Judicial Committee to Act as Designated Ethics Board.	Financial and Judicial Committee serves as the designated Ethics Board.	Committee members appointed through the City's normal committee appointment process.	Reviews ethics matters and may refer violations to the Common Council, District Attorney, or other appropriate authority.	Uses an existing standing committee rather than creating a separate Ethics Board.	https://library.municode.com/wi/elkhorn/codes/code_of_or_dinances?nodeId=CH1GEO_1.06COET
Fort Atkinson	None identified		No formal Ethics Board or Commission identified.	N/A	N/A	No dedicated ethics structure identified during review.	
Janesville	None identified		No formal Ethics Board or Commission identified.	N/A	N/A	No separate Ethics Board structure identified during review.	
La Crosse	Yes	§ 2-129 – Ethics Board; § 2-130 – Violations and Complaints	Five voting citizen members chosen from the private sector. Members may not have any affiliation with City government. Members serve three-year terms. Board has its own Chair and Vice-Chair.	Members appointed by the Mayor with approval of a majority of the City Council.	Issues advisory opinions; investigates complaints; may conduct preliminary investigations and hearings; may issue subpoenas and administer oaths; determines whether violations occurred; reports findings to the City Council and may recommend sanctions, discipline, removal, or civil forfeitures.	All five members must be private-sector citizens with no City-government affiliation. Detailed complaint, investigation, hearing, due-process, and penalty procedures.	https://library.municode.com/wi/la_crosse/codes/code_of_or_dinances?nodeId=PTIGFOR_CH2AD_ARTVOFEMDE_DIV2COET_S2-129ETBO
Lake Geneva	None identified	Article IV Ethical Code	No formal Ethics Board or Commission identified.	N/A	N/A	No separate Ethics Board or Ethics Commission identified in the City's current Boards, Committees & Commissions directory. They have an Ethical Code in its municipal code.	ARTICLE IV: ETHICAL CODE - City of Lake Geneva, WI
McFarland	Yes	Part II, Ch. 2, Art. VIII Ethics Board	Seven-member Ethics Board consisting of five voting members and two nonvoting municipal representatives.	Voting members appointed by Village President and confirmed by Village Board; municipal representatives serve in designated roles.	Reviews ethics complaints, provides advisory opinions, and administers ethics provisions.	Detailed structure with member qualifications, appointment requirements, and clearly defined voting/nonvoting roles.	Village of McFarland : Municipal Code
Milton	Yes	§ 2-9. - Ethics board.	Five-member board consisting of an alderperson, City officer/employee, and four citizen members, including an alternate.	Appointed according to municipal procedures.	Reviews alleged violations and provides ethics oversight.	Has a formal board with both citizen and municipal representatives and a defined complaint/hearing process.	https://library.municode.com/wi/milton/codes/code_of_or_dinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH2AD_ARTIINGE_DIV1COET_S2-9ETBO
Racine	Yes	§§ 2-583-2-585 – Board of Ethics / Duties and Hearings / Advisory Opinions	6 city residents, including 1 attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin. Members serve 6-year terms. Board may hire part-time administrative/support personnel within budget limitations.	Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council.	Adopts ethics procedures/guidelines; accepts and investigates verified complaints; determines probable cause; conducts hearings; issues written findings and recommendations; may issue subpoenas and administer oaths; may settle matters; may order forfeitures of up to \$5,000 per violation and forfeiture of economic gain; issues advisory opinions.	Formal enforcement model with, investigative/hearing authority, subpoena power, settlement authority, and significant forfeiture authority.	https://library.municode.com/wi/racine/codes/code_of_or_dinances?nodeId=PTIIMUCO_CH2AD_ARTVIIICOET_S2-583BOET
Town of Lake Mills	No dedicated Ethics Board identified	§1-15-9: Ethics Code Administration.	Town Attorney administers ethics advisory process	N/A	Town Attorney provides advisory opinions; alternate attorney if conflict	Attorney-based model, not a dedicated Ethics Board	1-15-Code-of-Ethics.pdf

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Watertown	Yes	§ 65-6, § 68-7 Ethics Board.	Formal Ethics Board established with detailed procedures and member requirements.	Members appointed according to City procedures.	Reviews complaints, provides guidance/advisory opinions, and administers ethics provisions.	Includes restrictions preventing Ethics Board members from serving on other City boards or committees, supporting independence.	https://ecode360.com/29269389