

Ethics Overview

for State Public Officials

The Wisconsin Ethics Commission oversees campaign finance, lobbying, and the state ethics code for state public officials.

Major Ethics Statutes:

A CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT:

- *ACT OFFICIALLY IN A MATTER IN WHICH PRIVATELY INTERESTED.* [§19.46, Wisconsin Statutes]
- *USE PUBLIC POSITION FOR PRIVATE BENEFIT.* [§19.45(2)]
- *ACCEPT TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, FOOD, OR BEVERAGE EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED.* [§19.45(3m)]
- *SOLICIT OR ACCEPT REWARDS OR ITEMS OR SERVICES LIKELY TO INFLUENCE.* [§19.45(3)]
- *USE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.* [§19.45(4)]
- *USE PUBLIC POSITION TO OBTAIN UNLAWFUL BENEFITS.* [§19.45(5)]
- *ENTER INTO PUBLIC CONTRACTS WITHOUT NOTICE.* [§19.45(6)]
- *CHARGE A FEE TO REPRESENT A PERSON BEFORE A STATE AGENCY.* [§19.45(7)]
- *OFFER OR PROVIDE INFLUENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.* [§19.45(13)]

AN ELECTIVE STATE OFFICIAL, AN AGENCY OFFICIAL, A LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE, OR CANDIDATE FOR ELECTIVE STATE OFFICE SHOULD NOT:

- *ACCEPT ANYTHING OF PECUNIARY VALUE FROM A LOBBYIST OR FROM A LOBBYING PRINCIPAL.* [§13.625(3)]

If you have questions about an ethics issue, there are guidelines on our website that cover many specific situations:

<http://www.gab.wi.gov/guidelines>

If the guidelines do not answer your questions, Ethics Commission Staff is happy to help.

<http://www.gab.wi.gov/about/staff/ethics>

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