

Public Members Newsletter

PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



State Ethics Commission

The SEC is the government agency charged with enforcing the Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991. As a public member, you are subject to the Act.

SEIs

As a public member, you must report your sources of income to the SEC via our website annually.

Important Dates

You must file your SEI by noon on March 30th every year. When you are initially appointed or elected to a position

SOUTH CAROLINA

**State Ethics
Commission**

ETHICS REFORM ACT

The State of South Carolina recognizes that the trust of the public is essential for government to function effectively. As many public members serve on a part-time basis, conflicts of interest and appearances of impropriety will occur. This newsletter aims to help you navigate those potential conflicts.

Statements of Economic Interests

You are required to fill out this form annually. You must create a user login and password on our website to fill out this form. You are required to disclose the source and amount of any income received by you or an immediate family member residing with you. You are also required to fill out the source, but not the amount, of private income received by you or a family member.



Getting Advice

REQUESTING AN ADVISORY OPINION

If you are ever unsure of your duties under the Ethics Reform Act, please do not act before you contact us and request an advisory opinion.

When requesting an advisory opinion, please put your question in writing and fully detail each area of concern. You can email your requests to our general counsel, Courtney Laster at claster@ethics.sc.gov. You may also mail your requests to the Commission at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150 in Columbia, South Carolina.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR BOARD WOULD BENEFIT FROM ETHICS TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT MEGHAN WALKER AT MWALKER@ETHICS.SC.GOV.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

AVOIDING NEPOTISM AND SELF-DEALING

The Ethics Reform Act forbids you from taking any action that results in an economic benefit for you, a family member, a person with whom you are associated or a business with which you are associated.

Definitions for each of these terms can be found in the Ethics Reform Act, but please note that family members include: your parents, siblings, children, in-laws, grandparents and grandchildren.

There are certain exceptions when you may vote even if there is an economic benefit for a family member. If the economic benefit applies to a large class of people, you may still be able to vote. Please contact us for guidance.

If you are unsure if you have a conflict of interests, please contact us before your act. If you have a conflict, you *must* recuse yourself. The recusal must be in writing and contain the issue with which you have a conflict and the nature of the conflict. The written recusal must then be given to the chairperson of your board and made a part of the record.