



Ethics Awareness

Understanding Your Legal Obligations



Oregon Government Ethics Law

Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 244

Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 199

All public officials in Oregon must comply with the Oregon Government Ethics Law.



Who is a “Public Official”

- ◇ **Any person serving any public body, as an elected official, appointed official, employee or agent.**
- ◇ **No compensation required.**

You are a public official IF

- You are a city elected official
- You are a city staff member
- You are a city employee
- You volunteer for the city



GIFTS

\$50

What is a Gift?

If it wasn't available to members of the public, under the same terms/conditions, it is **LIKELY** a gift

- Something of economic value given to a public official, a candidate or a relative or member of the household of the public official or candidate
- Without valuable consideration of equivalent value, including the full or partial forgiveness of indebtedness, which is not extended to others on the same terms and conditions; or
- For valuable consideration less than that required from others who are not public officials or candidates.

GIFT LIMITS

A public official/relative/household member may not accept gift if:

Public Official/Relative/Household Member

More than \$50 / Calendar year

Single Source

Legislative/Administrative Interest in Decision Making

Prohibited Use of Office

Promise of Future Employment



Public official cannot solicit/receive a pledge/promise for future employment



Either directly or indirectly



In exchange for a vote, official act, or influence

But you can get a job because of your credentials.

Use of Confidential Information Gained Through Public Office

- ◆ A public official may not attempt to further their personal gain through the use of confidential information gained in the course of or by reason of holding their position or the activities of the public official.
- ◆ This includes any attempt after the public official ceases to be a public official.



Conflicts of Interest

What is a Conflict of Interest?

- Potential conflict: Action taken by the public official *could* have a financial impact on that official, relative, or business.
- Actual conflict: Action taken by the public official *would* have a financial impact on that official, relative, or business.
- ORS 244.020(16) - Relative is expansively defined.
- Announce at each meeting.
- Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) advises if questions

Conflicts of Interest

Actual

Announce



Disclose



Recuse

Potential

Announce



Disclose



Remain

Record in Minutes

How to Disclose a Conflict: Elected Official



Publicly announce the nature of the conflict.

The notice must be recorded in the official records of the public body.

Announce the conflict at each meeting or on each occasion the issue is discussed or debated.

Applies when the official is an appointed member of a board/commission.

Statement of Economic Interest



SEI Annual Filing Requirement



FILED EACH
YEAR



COMPLETE ONLINE



FILING OPENS:
MARCH 15TH



FILING DEADLINE:
APRIL 15



SEI FILER TRAINING
ON OGEC WEBSITE

Elected officials, appointed officials (municipal judge, city administrator), planning commission members..full list is ORS 244.050.

What Does the SEI Disclose?

Business interests

Sources of income

Ownership interests in
real property other
than the principal
residence

Honorarium valued
over \$15

Names of
compensated lobbyists
with associated
business interests

Name of entities in
which the official
received over \$50 to
participate in various
meetings/travel

See complete list: ORS
244.060 and 244.070

Penalties Related to Late SEI Filing

April 16 – April 29 : \$10 per day

After April 29: \$50 per day

Maximum penalty: \$5,000 in fines

Ethics Resources

1. Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Website: www.oregon.gov/OGEC

Email: ogec.mail@oregon.gov

Phone: 503-378-5105

2. OGEC “A Guide for Public Officials”:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Pages/Guide-for-Public-Officials.aspx>

3. The League of Oregon Cities: [Municipal Handbook Chapter 8 - Ethics](#)

Any
Questions