

# Lake Erie West Regional Council Code of Ethics

Lake Erie West Regional Council relies on the input and participation of many members, other local governments, entities and agencies in our decision making. The diverse background and experience of the Council's policy board and committee members as well as General Assembly members may cause, from time to time, conflicting and competing interests to exist within the context of that decision-making process. To continue to ensure the integrity of this process, it is imperative that decisions made by the Lake Erie West Regional Council be free of any undue influence, conflicts of interest or appearances of impropriety by all participants in the decision-making process, whether at the General Assembly, policy board, committee, or staff level. Members, policy board/committee members and employees of the Lake Erie West Regional Council are subject to the Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes.

## Section 1

- A. That no member, policy board/committee member or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council shall receive or agree to receive directly or indirectly, compensation, anything of value or the promise of anything of value other than from the Council or the governmental unit which they serve and represent on the General Assembly, which compensation or thing or value is of such character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon them with respect to their duties.

## Section 2

- A. That no member, policy board/committee member or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council shall authorize, or employ the authority or influence of their office to secure authorization of any public contract in which they, a member of their family, or any of their business associates has an interest.

~~B. During their term of office or within one year thereafter, occupy any position of profit in the prosecution of a public contract authorized by them or by the Lake Erie West Regional Council, of which they are a member at the time of authorization, unless the contract was let by competitive bidding to the lowest and best bidder.~~

~~C. Have an interest in the profits or benefits of a public contract entered into by or for the use of the Lake Erie West Regional Council.~~

~~D. Have an interest in the profits or benefits of a public contract that is not let by competitive bidding when required by law, and that involves more than \$150 dollars.~~

~~E.B. That no member, policy board/committee member, or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council shall a~~ Authorize or employ the authority or influence of their office to secure the investment of public funds in any share, bond, mortgage or other security, with respect to which they, a member of their family, or any of their business associates either has an interest, is an underwriter, or receives any brokerage, organization or servicing fees.

### Section 3

That no member, policy board/committee member or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council shall take part in discussion, vote or use the authority or influence of their office on any case, proceeding, application or other matter which comes before the Council in which they, a member of their family, any of their private business associates, or any private entity of which they are an owner or agent, has a definite and direct fiduciary or pecuniary interest which conflicts with the duties of the member.

### Section 4

That no present or former member, policy board/committee member or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council shall represent a client, or act in a representative capacity, or any matter before the Lake Erie West Regional Council or any other government agency in which they have personally participated while an officer or employee of the Council. This prohibition will apply during the Lake Erie West Regional Council service and for one year thereafter.

### Section 5

That if it appears that a member, policy board/committee member or employee of the Lake Erie West Regional Council has violated or is about to violate this resolution, the chair of the Council or any committee thereof, upon being apprised of the violation or potential violation shall rule that the member, committee member or employee in violation or about to be in violation is out of order and may not participate in vote, recommendation or discussion. If such violation has already occurred, the chair may take the matter up for reconsideration if such violation has had an effect on the recommendation or decision of the staff or any board/committee or the Lake Erie West Regional Council.

## Section 6

That if a complaint is made to the Lake Erie West Regional Council against a member, policy board/committee member or employee, the Council shall give to the person against whom the complaint is made 10 days written notice of such complaint and direct the complaint to the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall seek advice from counsel on whether the member, policy board/committee member or employee has a conflict of interest and should abstain from any vote or recommendation. If necessary, the matter will be referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission or the appropriate prosecuting attorney for an advisory opinion or investigation.

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