Lake Erie West Resolution No. 2026-29
Approving Body: Governing Board

A RESOLUTION

AMENDING AND UPDATING LAKE ERIE WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS TO INCLUDE CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

WHEREAS, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (now known as Lake Erie West Regional Council) is a voluntary association of local governments in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS), and has carried out comprehensive metropolitan and regional planning since that date; and

WHEREAS, Lake Erie West is a public body and therefore since each member and employee holds their positions as a public trust, they should act to maintain that trust ensuring the reality and perception that government is conducted according to the highest principles of honesty and integrity; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these goals, the Leadership, Policy, and Programming Committee has recommended that the adoption of Lake Erie West's amended Code of Ethics with the addition of a Conflict of Interest Statement to assist in achieving these ends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake Erie West Regional Council Governing Board that:

Section 1: The Lake Erie West Regional Council updated Code of Ethics and supplemental Conflict of Interest Statement, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for its members and employees in fiscal year 2027, be adopted.

Date of Adoption: _____

_____
George E. Sarantou, Chair
Lake Erie West Regional Council

Attest:

I, Sandy Spang, Lake Erie West Executive Director, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of Resolution 2026-29, adopted on _____.

_____
Sandy Spang, Executive Director

DRAFT

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. 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 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.

Lake Erie West
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Conflict of Interest Statement

As a member of the Lake Erie West Governing Board, I acknowledge receiving and reviewing a copy of the Lake Erie West Code of Ethics policy. I have read and understand the Code of Ethics Policy and I agree to adhere to it.
By signing below, I acknowledge that neither I nor any immediate member of my household have, within the past 3 years (mark as applicable)

	Yes	No
Held a position or material financial interest in any entity doing business with Lake Erie West		
Had any personal loans, advances, or borrowings from any entity that does business with Lake Erie West (excluding credit cards and personal/mortgage loans at market rates at financial institutions)		
Rendered director, managerial, consultative or other services to or on behalf of any entity that does business with Lake Erie West		
Employed or otherwise retained any personnel of Lake Erie West for work on non- Lake Erie West business		
Used property of Lake Erie West to conduct any personal or non-Lake Erie West business		

If you marked "Yes" to any of the above statements, please provide further detail on reverse side.

_____ _____

Printed Name Signature

_____

Date

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