

Code of Ethics
Wake County Board of Commissioners
Adopted December 6, 2010

I. Declaration of Code of Ethics

The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policy be made in proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government.

In recognition of these goals, an ethics policy for County officials was adopted in December of 1985. The purpose of this policy was to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all such officials by setting forth those acts or actions that are compatible with the best interests of the County.

In 2009, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved revisions to Section 602 of its Human Resources Administration Manual, which clarified its applicability only to employees of Wake County. This action by the Board also reaffirmed the applicability of the 1985 policy to all elected and appointed County officials, including the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

Also, in 2009, NCGS 160A-86 *et. seq.* was enacted to make certain that all local governing boards had and abided by a code of ethics.

As a result of the 2009 actions by the Wake County Board of Commissioners and the North Carolina legislature, said Board now adopted this Code of Ethics.

II. Applicability of Ethics Code

The provisions of this code shall apply to all elected and appointed County officials, and members of County boards and commissions appointed by the County Commissioners.

III. Financial and Personal Disclosure

Any County official or employee who is to officially consider any public matter involving his financial interests, or those of his immediate family, shall first publicly disclose the nature and extent of such interest and shall abstain from acting thereon unless provisions of state law require otherwise. Any conflict of interest contemplated by North Carolina law shall be grounds for recusal from voting, and for the Board of Commissioners, such recusal shall be pursuant to its own Rules of Procedure.

IV. Gifts and Favors

No County official or Board member shall knowingly accept any gift, whether in the form of money, thing, favor, loan or promise, when it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence or reward an official action on his part. Gifts, meals, other favors of an

incidental nature and of minor value, or lawful political contributions shall not be included in this policy.

V. Appointment, Employment, or Contract Award of Relatives or Business Partners

Public officials of the appointing authority must disclose on the public record any person of their immediate family related by blood or marriage, or business interest who is being considered for appointment, employment or contract award by that authority. Immediate family related by blood and marriage are to include: spouse, child, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, step-, and in-law relationships for preceding categories.

VI. Incompatible Service

No county official or board member shall engage in, or accept private employment or render service for private interest, when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of his official duties.

VII. Special Treatment

No county official or board member shall grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

VIII. Disclosure of Confidential Information

No county official or board member shall disclose confidential information concerning the property, government or affairs of the County in such a manner as to advance the financial or other private interest of himself or others.

No member of the Board of Commissioners shall disclose without the approval of a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners, pursuant to its Rules of Procedure, any matter which has come before said Board in a lawfully called closed session and the purpose of which remains confidential.

IX. All elected and appointed county officials, members of County boards and commissions appointed by the County Commissioners, and other County employees who are serving in these roles at the date this code becomes effective and those hereafter elected or appointed shall be issued a copy of this code.

X. This Code of Ethics adopted and effective December 6, 2010 supersedes the ethics policy adopted on December 2, 1985.