



JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
130th OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly & Legislative Agencies

Ethics

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

50 West Broad Street, Suite 1308
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JLEC has Two Primary Responsibilities

- Responsible for administering the laws imposing financial disclosure requirements and governing conflicts of interest with respect to all members and employees of, and candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of all legislative agencies.
- Administering laws regarding lobbying and post employment disclosure.

Investigations and Hearings

- JLEC is authorized to investigate and conduct hearings on complaints or violations of the ethics statutes with respect to those public officials and employees subject to its jurisdiction.

Opinions

- Members and employees of, and candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of legislative agencies may request either a Written (private) or Advisory (public) opinion from JLEC relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure.

Informal Opinions

- When an Advisory opinion issued holds that there is no violation based on the particular facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, the person to whom it is directed and **others similarly situated** may reasonably rely on and act in accordance with it, and are immune from civil or criminal liability or removal from office.
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ETHICS AND PROHIBITIONS

Sources

- Ohio Revised Code Chapter 102
 - Ohio Revised Code Section 2921.42, 2921.43
 - JLEC Advisory Opinions
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GENERAL ETHICS PROVISIONS THAT APPLY TO EVERY STATE OFFICIAL R.C. 102.03(D)&(E)

- (D) No public official or employee shall use or authorize the use of the authority or influence of office or employment to secure anything of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the public official or employee him with respect to that person's duties.
 - (E) No public official or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the public official or employee with respect to that person's duties
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Use of State Resources

- Time
- Phone
- Office
- Computer
- Influence

Only for official government purposes

Incidental Personal Use Not A Violation of Law.

R.C. 102.03(F)

- (F) No person shall promise or give to a public official or employee anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the public official or employee with respect to that person's duties.

What is Substantial & Improper?

- No statutory definition
- Subjective Test
- We can look to statutory gift limits in most cases

Nominal Gifts

- Anything valued less than \$25 is considered nominal

Summary

- Cannot use authority of position for personal gain.
- Cannot solicit or accept things of value.
- Cannot receive additional compensation for official duties.

Ethical Conduct

- Consider not only legal standards, but also the "appearance factor".

When in Doubt

- **Call JLEC, 614-728-5100**