



McHenry County Ethics Ordinance

Summary of Recommended Changes

The McHenry County Ethics Commission completed a review of the Ethics Ordinance and is recommending the following key changes:

2.60.020 DEFINITIONS

- A) Removes the obsolete ordinance reference in the definition of "Appointee."
- C) Makes party name changes to the definition of "Business entity."
- M.2) Removes the obsolete ordinance reference in the definitions of "Employee."
- M.4) Revises the definition of "Employee" to exempt the Public Defender and removes the justification for the excluding of staff the Circuit Clerk, SAO, Public Defender, Court Administration and Judges thereof from the ordinance.
- T) Revises the definition of "Officer" to exempt the Public Defender and removes the justification for the excluding the Circuit Clerk, SAO, Public Defender, Court Administration and Judges thereof from the ordinance. Removes language stating the exempted officers may adopt this ordinance.
- W) Revises the definition of "Principals" to clarify ownership interest in the entity.
- Y.3) Revises the definition of "Prohibited Political Activity" to include a campaign contribution.
- Z.5) Adds 'candidate' to the definition of "Prohibited Source."

2.60.030 PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY

- A & B) Adds "candidate" to the restricted list (level playing field).

2.60.040 GIFT BAN

- B.4) Provides a limitation to the educational exemption.
- B.5) Provides a limitation to the meeting travel expenses exemption.
- B.8) Caps the food exemption to \$500 per person in any 12-month period.
- B.10) Excludes any employee, employee of an officer or officer who is a candidate from the inter- and intra-governmental exemption.

2.64.060 ETHICS ADVISOR AND TRAINING

- C. Amends the training provision to require training to occur within six months of an ordinance amendment and no less than every two years. Also tweaks the training administration language.

2.64.070 ETHICS COMMISSION

- A.2) Changes the term of Ethics Commissioners from three years to five years.
- A.3) Creates a Vice Chair and empowers this position in the absence of the Chair. Also stipulates the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair to occur at the first meeting in odd numbered years.
- B.1.d) Empowers the Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair.
- B.1.o) Adds a new power and duty of the Commission regarding interference with an investigation and false, frivolous or bad faith complaints.

2.64.080 PENALTIES

- E) Tweaks the penalty provision regarding false or frivolous complaints.