



Milwaukee County Ethics Board

DATE: March 20, 2025

TO: Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Chairman Justin Bielinski, Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee
Supervisor Sky Z. Capriolo, Vice Chair, Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee
Members of the Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee
Interested Parties

FROM: Adam Gilmore, Executive Director, Ethics Board

RE: Ethics Board Findings Contained in 2024 Annual Report and Potential Applicability to Other Factual Situations

BACKGROUND

On March 20, 2025, the office of the Ethics Board published their 2024 Annual Report, providing copies to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Chair and the County Executive. As has been past practice when the Annual Report is published, the office of the Ethics Board submits a supplemental report discussing the potential applicability of the Ethics Board's 2024 determinations and advisories to Milwaukee County officials and employees. These reports are for the consideration of the County Board and specifically the Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee and intended to be informational only.

POTENTIAL APPLICABILITY TO MILWAUKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

The Ethics Board is the primary source of interpretation of the Milwaukee County Ethics Code (Chapter 9 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances). Some of the duties of the Board include:

- Providing Advisory Opinions
- Assessing Potential Ethical Issues
- Providing Periodic Ethics Education
- Enforcing the Ethics Code through Investigations, Hearings, and other Resolution Processes

COURTHOUSE, ROOM 212 · 901 NORTH 9TH STREET · MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53233 · ETHICS@MILWAUKEECOUNTYWI.GOV ·
TELEPHONE (414) 278-5332 · FAX (414) 223-1897

Board Members
CHRISTOPHER MEULER · Chair
ELIZABETH LENTINI · Vice Chair
CLARENCE P. NICHOLAS · RICHARD DONNER · DEAN DANIELS · CLIFTON PHELPS

Each year, the Ethics Board releases its Annual Report, summarizing their yearly advisory opinions, investigations requests, and verified complaints. This is done in an effort to inform and educate the public as to matters that are generally before the Board and the Board's determinations in those matters. Any opinion or response issued by the Ethics Board applies solely to the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular request. The summaries in the annual report are written in a manner that protects the integrity of the closed session discussions of the Board and the confidentiality of the subjects of opinions and responses. The Board's findings vary on what may initially appear to be relatively similar scenarios, due to the particular facts and circumstances that are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. *The summaries are for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as authoritative advice for other facts and scenarios.*

The scenarios referred to in the Annual Report are reflective of the most commonly asked questions of the Ethics Board through the years, relating to topics such as:

- Conflicts of Interest
- Gifts
- Use of Government Position and Resources
- Outside Employment
- Post-Employment
- Political Activity

2024 saw the number of ethics questions and inquiries made continue to increase. The Ethics Board and its office now handles more than double the number of inquiries in a year as it did five years ago. The Ethics Board and its office are proud of this continuing trend, as it shows a stronger awareness amongst County staff and officials of the Code and consideration of its contents. As always, the Board welcomes all inquiries and guarantees their confidentiality.

Submitted by,



Adam Gilmore, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Ethics Board

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Executive's Office
Allyson Smith, Coordinator, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee