



# Milwaukee County Ethics Board

DATE: March 27, 2023

TO: Chairwoman Marcella Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Ryan Clancy, Milwaukee County Judiciary, Safety and  
General Services Committee  
Supervisor Deanna Alexander, 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 2022 Annual Report and Potential  
Applicability to Other Factual Situations

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## **BACKGROUND**

On March 27, 2023, the office of the Ethics Board published their 2022 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 2022 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

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Board Members  
CHRISTOPHER MEULER · Chair  
DANA GUTHRIE · Vice Chair  
DEAN DANIELS · RICHARD DONNER · CHRISTINE HANSEN · CLARENCE P. NICHOLAS

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

2022 saw the number of ethics questions and inquires made continue to increase. The Ethics Board and its office now handles approximately four times the number of inquires in a year compared to five years ago and beyond. 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