

## **2005 Conflict of Interest**

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

### 1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

(1) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

(2) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

### 2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract

awarded. Board members who enter into employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board's policy on the employment of board members.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.
- d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:
  - (1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;
  - (2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and
  - (3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.

### 3. Contracts with Board Member's Immediate Family.

- a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
  - (1) All district employees.
  - (2) All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.

#### 4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
  - (1) The board member does not abuse his or her position.
  - (2) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
    - (i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
    - (ii) for any unreasonably high salary;
    - (iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
  - (3) The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
  - (4) The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
  - (5) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.
- b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

#### 5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

- a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:
  - (1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.
  - (2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

- b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.
- c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
- d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

## 6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

- a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
  - b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
  - c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
  - d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
- (1) The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.

- (2) Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

## 7. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:
  - (1) Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
  - (2) Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and
  - (3) Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.
- b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

## 8. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:
  - (1) The names of the contracting parties.

- (2) The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
- (3) The date that the contract was approved.
- (4) The amount of the contract.
- (5) The basic terms of the contract.

b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.

9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 03/20/17

Revised on: 05/14/18

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522	<b>POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT</b>	POSTMARK DATE	
		MICROFILM NUMBER	
<b>NADC FORM C-2A</b> (Village, City, School Officials Except Omaha and Lincoln Officials)		OFFICE USE ONLY	
BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 3			

- An official of a village or city holding elective office or an official of a school district holding elective office must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.
- **Officials of the cities of Lincoln and Omaha** holding elective office with a potential conflict of interest **should not use this form.** Use Form C-2.
- This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the school district, city or village. **There is no requirement to file this form with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.**
- Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

<b>ITEM 1</b>	<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE City STATE ZIP CODE

<b>ITEM 2</b>	<b>TITLE, AGENCY (City, Village, School), ADDRESS AND PHONE</b>
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Your Title \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>ITEM 3</b>	<b>DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 6 Continuation, if necessary)</b>
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Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Potential Conflict:

**ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT**

You

Member of your Immediate Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

Business With Which You

Are Associated (See Definitions) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF BUSINESS

**ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT**

**ITEM 6 CONTINUATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

## General Information - Filing Requirements

**I. What is a Potential Conflict of Interest?** - A public official has a potential conflict of interest if he or she is faced with taking an official action or making an official decision which may result in a financial benefit or a financial detriment to the public official; a member of his or her immediate family; or a business with which he or she is associated. The financial effect of the action or decision must be distinguishable from the financial effect on the general public or a broad segment of it.

### II. Who Must File:

- A. An official of a city or village holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest. An official of the cities of Lincoln or Omaha holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest should not file this form, but instead should use Form C-2.
- B. An official of a school district holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest.
- C. An elective office is a public office normally filled by an election. A person appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office normally filled by election holds an elective office.

### III. When and Where to File:

- A. This form should be filed as soon as the person holding elective office is aware that he or she may have a potential conflict of interest and prior to the time that the action is to be taken or the decision made.

- B. This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the governing body of the official holding elective office. For example, the person who keeps records for a city or village may be the city clerk or village clerk. **This form does not need to be filed with the Commission.**
- C. The person filing the form should abstain from participating in or voting on the matter in which he or she has a potential conflict of interest. However, if the person wants an opinion from the Commission as to whether he or she has an actual conflict of interest requiring abstention or non-participation, he or she may send a copy of the form to the Commission along with request for an opinion.

**Disclosure of Contractual Interests by Local Officers.** If you are a local elected official disclosing an interest in a contract or an open account in which a local governing body on which you serve is a party, use NADC Form C-3, Contractual Interest Statement.

**Disclosure of the Employment of Immediate Family Members.** If you are disclosing the employment of an immediate family member, use NADC Form C-4, Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement.

## Definitions

Immediate family shall mean a child residing in your household, your spouse or an individual claimed by you or your spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Business shall mean any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, activity, or entity. NOTE: The definition includes for profit and non-profit entities.

Business with which you are associated shall mean a business: (1) of which you are the sole proprietor; (2) or in which you are a partner, director, or officer; (3) or in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 10 percent equity interest.

Elective office shall mean a public office filled by an election, except for federal offices. A person who is appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office which is ordinarily elective holds an elective office.

Person means a business, individual, proprietorship, firm partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, labor organization, company, corporation, association, committee, or any other organization or group of persons acting jointly.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-1499.03 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.