



SHELTER ISLAND BOARD OF ETHICS

P.O. Box 970
Shelter Island, New York 11964-0970
e-mail: boe@shelterislandtown.gov

3 January 2025

Dear Supervisor Brach-Williams and Town Board members,

This is a brief annual report from the Shelter Island Board of Ethics. You can find our 2022 and 2023 reports under “Related Information” on our [web page](#) tracking the Town’s progress in the ethics code.

We met eight times in 2024 and issued two formal Opinions and one [published Q&A](#) on a complex situation. We also reviewed standards on recusal, common-law ethics, and certain exemptions for island-wide policy proposals that affect a policymaker among a larger class of people, such as with the draft comprehensive plan. To date, our ethics board has always been able to decide issues by consensus.

Last year also, we adopted a procedure to publish some of our Opinions on our web site. That requires consent of the subject since the process is designed to encourage employees and officials to ask us questions with confidentiality. Currently there are five full Opinions and summaries of others on our web site under Advisory Opinions. They’re intended to help guide other Shelter Island officials and residents. This is a level of openness I haven’t seen in other town ethics boards. It lets you see how we do our work.

During 2024, we met via Zoom with the state’s two leading municipal-ethics attorneys, Mark Davies and Steven G. Leventhal, separately. I’m glad to report they both praised our new ethics code and our process and diligence. We considered whether campaign contributions qualify as financial conflicts-of-interest and were advised that neither the state law nor municipal ethics laws currently do so.

These experts have recommended one change to our code which we’re evaluating for your review.

We’re also currently drafting a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) about the ethics code to post and share with employees. I’d be glad to meet with any Town office or group to answer questions.

We appreciate your support for our work and for ethics in government.

Sincerely,

Duff Wilson (chairperson) on behalf of the Board of Ethics
Laura Cunningham
Deborah Grayson
Shelby Mundy
Robert Raiber