

Preliminary list of proposed Ethics Code changes

As of the board's Feb. 14, 2025, meeting.

Ethics Code review. Steven will draft specific language for our review at our next meeting as we prepare to make a recommendation to the Town Board. We'll also review the draft Southampton code which was annotated by Steven in 2018 and previously shared among us. It's attached. Our preliminary list of changes, subject to discussion after drafting, follows:

- 8-2 Definitions add and define "Material", e.g. FINANCIAL OR OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT
- 8-2 Definitions see if we can reduce them: cut "Household," "Town," and put some others in the text instead of the Definitions section if they are clearer in that context.
- 8-2 Definitions "Relative" should clearly distinguish the list of relatives from other members of the officer's or employee's household.
- 8-4 Prohibition on use of Town position for personal or private gain. Consider adding another category covering close associations aside from relatives or organizations.
- 8-5 Disclosure of interest. Change "B" to have disclosures in minutes if you're a board member and disclosures to your supervisor or hiring authority if you're an employee. It's been unworkable to say BOE will collect transactional disclosure forms.
- 8-5 Disclosure of interest. Consider whether Shelter Island should have some form of annual disclosure forms instead of just relying on transactional disclosure. What would that look like and who would be required to fill them out? Amber and Bill Mastro will provide examples. We'll look at Sag Harbor, Southampton and Port Jefferson.
- 8-9 Private employment in conflict with official duties. Bifurcate (B) so that it covers Article 18 GML 805a1c and 805a1d separately, as required by the state law.
- 8-10 Future employment. Redraft the one-year revolving door prohibition in (B) so it is not too draconian and prohibits certain employment instead of certain appearances.
- 8-16 Gifts. Steven will draft a clearer section on gifts.
- 8-18 Administration. (D)(1) Consider how to include a supervisor asking about an employee. Would our Opinion be confidential, and if so, to whom?
- 8-18 Administration. (D)(2) "A reason to believe" instead of "probable cause."
- 8-19 Investigations. (A) Provide that the Board may accept anonymous complaints.
- 8-21 Penalties. (E) Misdemeanor. Steven suggests we cut or redraft this to show we refer cases to the county prosecutor.