

Elected Officials' Ethics Pledge

As a DeKalb County elected official, I work on behalf of the citizens of DeKalb County and I have a fiduciary responsibility towards all citizens of the County. In order to foster trust and confidence with the citizens of DeKalb, I am committed to promoting integrity in DeKalb County government by placing the best interest of the County above my own financial or personal interests by complying with the following rules:

1. As an elected official, I will not use my position to secure special advantage or benefit for myself, my family, or other persons and will always act in a manner that does not give the perception of impropriety or results in a conflict between my personal interests and that of the County. When uncertain about the best course of action, I will seek guidance from the Ethics Officer or the Ethics Board.
2. I will not solicit or accept anything of value, for myself or others, that is calculated to influence my vote, decision, or the exercise of my official authority. To that end, I will not solicit or accept money or gifts including meals (unless of nominal value) tickets, travel, entertainment, or other things of value from an outside source or contractor, vendor or supplier that does business with the County nor shall I accept gifts from any citizen or company if that citizen or company has the expectation that any such gift may influence me in carrying out the requirements of my position. If I receive a gift, I will seek advice from the Ethics Officer or the Ethics Board regarding whether it is acceptable or how to proceed.
3. I understand that I may accept awards given in recognition of my public service, nominal gifts from representatives of other governments, gifts accepted on behalf of my district or the County and perishable items of nominal value that are shared with public visitors and staff.
4. I understand that I may accept reasonable meals and refreshments provided to me in my official capacity at a public, civic, charitable, or non-profit event, convention, or conference.
5. I understand that I may accept reimbursement from outside sources for my travel and training expenses in connection with a speaking engagement, teaching, participation on a professional or civic panel, and attendance at a conference.
6. I will use public property, vehicles, equipment, labor, and services only for official County business and will not request or allow its use for the private advantage of myself, any individual or private entity or for political events.

9. I will not knowingly vote or participate in any matter in which I have a financial or personal interest and I will not participate in or request any official action from the County regarding any discussion or vote involving any bid, proposal, contract, or subcontract if I or a family member, employer, prospective employer, or a related business entity have a financial or personal interest. I will report all personal or financial conflicts of interest to the Board of Commissioners and file a conflicts form with the Ethics Board and seek advice whenever necessary.
10. I will refrain from working for any business when such employment or rendering of services is incompatible with my position with DeKalb County. I will seek advice from the Ethics Officer or the Ethics Board on any employment to which there is a question regarding incompatibility.
11. I will not represent myself or any individual or private interest, whether I am paid or unpaid, before any court or before any legislative, administrative, or quasi-judicial board, agency, commission, or committee concerning any contract or transaction which is or may be the subject of an official act or action of DeKalb County. I understand that I am permitted to appear before a County agency on behalf of my constituents or in the performance of my civic duties as long as I am not compensated for the appearance.
13. I will not hold investments, engage in private employment, or be paid to render services for a private interest when the work is adverse to and incompatible with the proper discharge of my official duties.
14. I will not use confidential information that I have learned from my official position in order to benefit myself, my family or anyone else; for instance, I will not acquire an interest in any contract or transaction at a time when I believe such an interest will be affected by an official act of DeKalb County.
15. It is my responsibility as a DeKalb County official to report any violations of the Ethics Code that I observe or believe may be taking place. I can speak to the Ethics Officer or make an anonymous report to the County hotline. DeKalb County will not retaliate against any person making a report in good faith.
16. I understand that the County has a two-year cooling-off period and agree that for two years after leaving DeKalb County employment I will not appear before any County agency for pay or be paid to work on any matter before the County.

I _____ acknowledge that I have received and read this pledge and agree to abide by the DeKalb County Code of Ethics. I understand that the most current copy of the Code of Ethics is at the DeKalb County Ethics website and that I can seek advice from the Ethics Officer if I need guidance on how to avoid a conflict of interest and comply with the Code of Ethics.

Signature/Department/Date

