

Washington County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

Board Member Conflict of Interest

Descriptor Code:

1.107

Issued Date:

05/07/98

Rescinds:

Issued:

1 A board member shall not be directly interested in any contract in which the Board may be interested.
2 "Directly interested" means any contract with the board member or with any business in which the board
3 member is sole proprietor, a partner, or the person having controlling interest. "Controlling interest" shall
4 include the individual with the ownership or control of the largest number of outstanding shares owned
5 by any single individual or corporation.

6
7 This policy shall not prohibit any board member from voting on the school budget or any budget
8 amendments, unless the vote is on a specific budget amendment in which such board member is directly
9 interested.

10
11 A board member shall not be indirectly interested in any contract in which the Board may be interested
12 unless the board member publicly acknowledges such interest. "Indirectly interested" means any contract
13 in which the board member is interested but not directly so, as defined above, including contracts in which
14 the board member may have a direct interest but is the sole supplier of goods or services in the county.

15
16 Any board member who is an employee of the county and whose employment predates his/her initial
17 election/appointment to the Board may vote on matters in which he/she has a conflict of interest if the
18 member informs the Board immediately prior to the vote as follows: "Because I am an employee of (name
19 of governmental unit), I have a conflict of interest in the proposal about to be voted. However, I declare
20 that my argument and my vote answer only to my conscience and to my obligation to my constituents and
21 the citizens the Board represents." The vote of any board member having a conflict of interest who does
22 not inform the Board of such conflict shall be void if challenged during the same board meeting at which
23 the vote was cast and prior to the transaction of any further business by the Board.

24
25 Any board member who is also an employee of the county/city and whose employment began on or after
26 the date on which he/she was initially elected/appointed to serve on the Board shall not vote on matters
27 in which he has a conflict of interest.

28
29 If a board member has a conflict of interest in a matter to be voted on by the Board, he/she may abstain
30 for cause by announcing such to the chairman. Any board member who abstains from voting for cause
31 on any issue coming to a vote before the Board shall not be counted for the purpose of determining a
32 majority vote.¹

33 34 **PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL INTEREST**

35
36 If a board member becomes directly or indirectly interested in any such contract, he/she shall forfeit all
37 pay and compensation and shall be dismissed from the Board and be ineligible to serve in the same or
38 similar position for ten (10) years.¹

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41 Legal References:

42 1. TCA 12-4-101; TCA 12-4-102.
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