

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

This conflict of interest policy shall apply to Leland Township Board members, members of the various Leland Township commissions and committees, Leland Township employees, and all persons or entities (including the entities' employees) which serve as contractors with Leland Township which are cumulatively hereinafter referred to as *public servants*.

This policy is intended to supplement existing Michigan State Law dealing with unethical conduct and/or conflicts of interest by municipal board members, employees, and commissioners. In addition to this policy, *public servants* are bound by all state laws, including but not limited to, the Incompatible Public Offices Act, (MCL 15.181 et. seq) the Contract of Public Servants with Public Entities Act (MCL 15,321 et seq.), and the Standards of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees Act (MCL 15.341 et seq.)

As employees, members, participants, and contractors in the municipal government, one must be diligent in avoiding unethical conduct, conflicts of interest, and/or the appearance or perception thereof.

An actual conflict of interest arises in a situation where:

1. Financial or other personal or professional considerations compromise, or could reasonably appear to compromise, an individual's objectivity, professional judgement, professional integrity or ability to perform his or her responsibilities to the Township.
2. A *public servant* participates in a task, duty, discussion, lobbying effort or votes with the possibility of that the individual or the individual's immediate family, might receive personal benefit or advantage from the resolution of the issue.
3. A *public servant's* public duty and private interests are in conflict or incompatible or reasonably perceived to be in conflict or incompatible.

4. The personal interest of a *public servant* places the *public servant* in a position where the *public servant* cannot execute their public duties without affecting their private interests.
5. A *public servant* or a *public servant's* immediate family (spouse, parents, children and siblings) uses any Township information coming to the *public servant* in the performance of their governmental duties for private profit or advantage.

A *public servant* shall not dispense special favors or privileges, and never accept for him or herself or his/her immediate family, personal favors, or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by a reasonable person as influencing the performance of his or her governmental duties.

It is the duty of a *public servant* to promptly report to the Township Supervisor (or the Township Clerk if the Supervisor is the subject of the report) any perceived violation of this policy.


A clear example of a conflict of interest occurs when a *public servant* openly advocates the approval and funding for a program, which would result in a benefit to the *public servant*. More subtle examples of prohibited conflicts of interest are:

- a) An individual participated in the discussion and/or votes for approval of special contracts/grants for a family member (remedy is abstention or recusal).
- b) An individual, with an organization which provides him/her with additional income advocates for or on behalf of that organization with the Township (remedy is no advocacy).
- c) An individual participates in the discussion and/or votes on a rezoning, land purchase, road or facility improvement, or similar change that could be of direct personal benefit to him/her (remedy is abstention or recusal).
- d) A political contribution is solicited, accepted, or retained when the recipient believes it was made in expectation that it would influence the award of Township business.

Violation of this policy may result in the adoption of a Resolution of Censure by the Leland Township Board.

Approved by the Leland Township Board on November 12, 2018
Effective immediately.

I hereby certify that the foregoing policy was duly adopted at the regular session of the Leland Township Board held on November 12, 2018.



Lisa Brookfield, Leland Township Clerk

November 29, 2018

Date