

Adopted Amendments
Official Code of Cobb County
Chapter 2
Public Hearing Dates
July 14, 2009 – 9:00 am
July 28, 2009 – 7:00 pm
Dirty Copy

Cobb County Community Development
191 Lawrence Street
Marietta, GA 30060
www.cobbcounty.org

Sec. 2-41. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Agency means any entity which the county ethics board determines is subject to the legislative authority of the county with respect to the ethics code.....

Professional representative/client means persons with whom the officer currently has a professional relationship due to being represented by, or representing, such person as attorney, physician, cleric, accountant, and the like.

Public officer or officer or official means the members of the board of commissioners and their appointees to all boards, commissions and authorities, except the Ethics Board; provided, however, that only the members of the board of commissioners shall be subject to the financial disclosure and reporting requirements of subsection (b) of section 2-48 of the Ethics Code.

Reprimand means an expression of disapproval.

(Ord. of 11-14-89, § 103; Code 1977, § 3-20-33; Ord. of 2-22-00; Ord. of 2-27-07)

Cross references: Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 2-53. Solicitation or acceptance of gifts.

(a) Except as provided in this division, no official, either for himself or for any member of his immediate family, or for any other person, may knowingly solicit, receive benefit from, accept or agree to accept any gratuity, gift, loan, favor, promise or thing of value for himself, any other person or any member of the immediate family of such official. In addition, it shall also be a violation of this ethics code for any gift as defined in this division to be received by any such person as specified in this section if:

- (1) It tends to influence him in the discharge of official duties or gives a reasonable basis for the impression of improper influence over him in the discharge of official duties; or
- (2) The official has financial interest which may be substantially and materially affected, by performance or nonperformance of his official duties.

(b) Unless impartiality and independence of judgment of the official would be compromised, this section shall not apply to the following:

- (1) Meals and beverages given in the normal course of entertaining.
 - (2) An occasional, nonpecuniary gift from a single source of \$101.00 or less.
 - (3) Ceremonial gifts or awards.
 - (4) Gifts of advertising value only.
 - (5) Awards presented in recognition of public service.
 - (6) Reasonable expenses of food, travel, lodging and scheduled entertainment of the official for a meeting which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting.
 - (7) Courtesy tickets or free admission extended to an elected official for an event as a courtesy or for ceremonial purposes.
 - (8) Gifts from relatives or members of his household.
 - (9) Honorariums or awards for professional achievement.
 - (10) Courtesy tickets or free admission to an elected official to educational seminars, educational or informational conventions or other similar events.
 - (11) Campaign contributions as allowed by state and federal law.
- (Ord. of 11-14-89, § 113; Code 1977, § 3-20-43; Ord. of 5-25-99)

Sec. 2-74. Prohibition against political activity.

(a) Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings.....

(b) Permissible activities. All members of the board of ethics are free to engage in political activity to the widest extent consistent with the restrictions imposed in this division. Each member of the board of ethics retains the right to:

- (1) Register and vote in any election;
- (2) Participate in the nonpartisan activities of a civic, community, social, labor, or professional organization or of a similar organization;
- (3) Be a member of a political party or other political organization and participate in its activities to the extent consistent with law;
- (4) Attend a political convention, rally, fundraising function or other political gathering;
- (5) Sign a political petition as an individual;
- (6) Make a financial contribution to a political party or organization or candidate other than a Public officer as defined in Sec. 2-41. :
- (7) Take an active part, as a candidate or in support of a candidate, in a nonpartisan election;.....

(Ord. of 11-14-89, § 116; Ord. of 7-23-91; Ord. of 10-11-94; Code 1977, § 3-20-46(j))