



The COE

PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2025

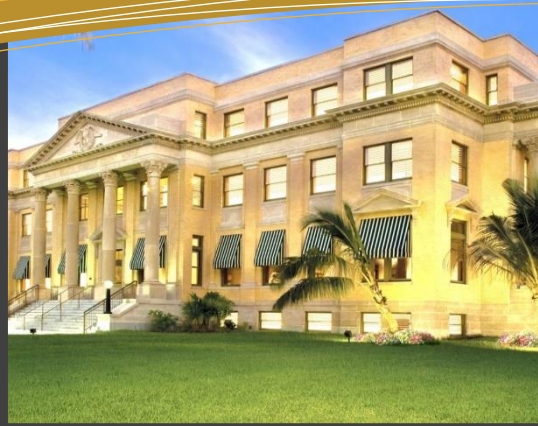
Mission Statement

The mission of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics is to foster integrity in public services, to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service, and to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties.

The ONE Ethics Movement

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics and the Office of the Inspector General were both established in 2010. The ONE Ethics movement speaks to our collective and collaborative efforts to provide independent and objective oversight of ethics in our local government.

COE Hotline:
877-766-5920



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The Commission on Ethics

Dedicated to Ethical Excellence

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics oversees, interprets, enforces, and provides guidance on the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, which was established in 2011 with stringent ethics standards, as authorized by FL Statutes, §112.326. The Code of Ethics reminds government officials and employees that public service is a public trust, requiring impartiality and commitment to the best interests of Palm Beach County residents.

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics trains officials, employees, vendors, lobbyists, and community members on the requirements of the county's Code of Ethics; offers legal advice through advisory opinions; investigates alleged violations of the three local ethics ordinances; and enforces these rules as needed.

Annual Report 2024 Highlights



18 Training Sessions
22 Outreach Presentations
48K Website Views
37 Pre-Inquiry Reviews
22 Complaints Investigated
1,055 Gift Forms Reviewed



Be On The Lookout!

Our wrap is on the move...

6 Big Ethics Reminders

Honesty in Applications for Positions

Sec. 2-443(h)

No person applying for employment, appointment to an advisory board or seeking a contract with the county or a municipal government may make any false statement, submit any false document, or knowingly withhold information about wrongdoing in connection with that employment or application.

Travel Expenses

Sec. 2-443(f)

No official or employee shall accept directly or indirectly, any travel expenses, including, but not limited to, transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees, and incidentals from any county or municipal contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer, as applicable.

Anti-Nepotism

Sec. 2-445

An official may not appoint, employ, promote, advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement in or to a position in the county or municipality (as applicable) in which the official is serving or over which the official exercises jurisdiction or control, any individual who is a relative or domestic partner of the official.

Gift Law

Sec. 2-444(a)(1)

No county commissioner, member of a local governing body, mayor or chief executive when not a member of a governing body, or employee, or any other person or business entity on his or her behalf, shall knowingly solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift with a value of greater than on hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate for the calendar year from any person or business entity that the recipient knows, or should know with the exercise of reasonable care, is a vendor, lobbyist, or any principal or employer of a lobbyist who lobbies, sells, or leases to the county or municipality as applicable.

Gift Law

Sec. 2-444 (2)(b)

All employees who are not reporting individuals under state law and who receive any gift in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100)... shall complete and submit an annual gift disclosure report with the county commission on ethics no later than January 31 of each year for the previous calendar year (January 1 through December 31).

Post-Employment Ordinance

Sec. 2-143

No former county commissioner shall knowingly represent anyone other than the county or another public entity in connection with any matter for a period of two (2) years after the cessation of his or her term of office with the county.

No former level 1 or level 2 employee shall knowingly represent anyone other than the county or another public entity in connection with any manner for a period of six (6) months after the cessation of his or her employment with the county.

Additional information can be found online at www.palmbeachcountyethics.com

Ethics guides how people should act in situations, weighing the effects of their choices and the potential consequences of their actions on themselves and their community.

Advisory Opinions

Requests for an Advisory Opinion are sent to the intake manager for processing.

The intake manager reviews the question to confirm it falls within the scope of the Code of Ethics. Once confirmed, the request is entered into our project tracking system, a file is created, and the matter is assigned to the general counsel.

The general counsel then reviews the request and determines what portion of the Code of Ethics applies to the information provided.

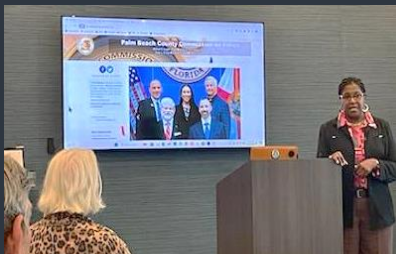
Written guidance is then drafted outlining what actions are permitted or not permitted under the Code without resulting in a violation.

The Advisory Opinion is then submitted to the Commission for its approval at its next public meeting. Once the opinion is approved by the Commission, it is published on our website, and a copy is provided to the individual who submitted the request.

Requests for an Advisory Opinion can be emailed to ethics@pbc.gov.

You can access all of the Commission's prior advisory opinions at:

www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/coepub/AdvisoryOpinion/AdOpSearch.aspx



Book a Speaker

The Commission on Ethics offers dynamic training programs that ignite ethical insight, sharpen your skills, and empower civic-minded individuals and groups to become advocates of integrity. Guided by our passionate ethics experts, you will learn how ethics play a vital role in our community and discover ways to support a culture of ethical excellence in public service. Whether you belong to a civic, professional, business, or educational organization, these programs promise to energize your ethical commitment and impact!

For more details or if you would like to schedule a speaker, contact us.

Upcoming Events

- **We are still celebrating our 15th Anniversary!**
 - Check out our PBC TV Channel 20 Special Program by clicking [here](#) or visiting our website.
 - Catch the Commission on Ethics 15th Anniversary wrap on your local Palm Tran bus.
 - Did you know... this is the second time the COE has featured a bus wrap? Our first wrap campaign in 2010 promoted our original “Got Ethics?” motto.
- **Monthly Commission on Ethics Meetings**
 - The first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Governmental Center or on PBC TV Channel 20.
 - Join us to see a glimpse of our COE Commissioners and staff at work for YOU.

Happy Retirement!



Congratulations to **Richard Radcliffe**, long-serving Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Richard led the daily business operations of the League and served as chief liaison to the Commission on Ethics and key local government and legislative bodies. It has been a pleasure working with you, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics
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West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Call: 561-355-1915 Email: ethics@pbc.gov
Visit: [www. PalmBeachCountyEthics.com](http://www.PalmBeachCountyEthics.com)

Like and follow the COE on social media: [@pbccoe](#)  

Got Ethics? When faced with a possible ethical dilemma, local public officials and employees are encouraged to follow the *Ask First, Act Later* motto. The COE staff is available to help you understand your responsibilities under the Code of Ethics. See our FAQ page online.