

**RESOLUTION 2024-013
DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL
CODE OF CONDUCT

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Council is fiscal body for Delaware County and is empowered to adopt resolutions for the governance of the Delaware County Council and its appointees; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Council believes it is in the best interests of the citizens of Delaware County, Indiana, to adopt a Code of Conduct for the Delaware County Council and its appointees; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Council Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time, has been presented for review and adoption;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Delaware County Council hereby adopts the Delaware County Council Code of Conduct attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Dated this 25 day of JUNE, 2024.



Jessica Piper, President



Matt Kantz, President Pro Tempore



Dan Flanagan, Councilman



William Hughes, Councilman



Jim Mochal, Councilman



Ryan Webb, Councilman



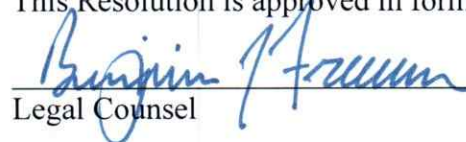
Eugene Whitehead, Councilman

Attest:



Ed Carrol Jr., Auditor

This Resolution is approved in form by



Legal Counsel

Delaware County Council

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is adopted to apply to the Members of the Delaware County Council and all persons appointed to their positions by the Council ("Appointees") to ensure public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective, open, and fair operation. In addition, the Code of Conduct is to apply the idea that what any one Member or Appointee does has an impact on the effectiveness and actions of the whole Council in both positive and negative ways. To this end, the following standards are established:

1. Act in the Public Interest

Recognizing that stewardship of the public interest must be their primary concern, Members and Appointees will work for the common good of the people of Delaware County and not for any private or personal interest and they will ensure fair and equal treatment to all persons, claims, and transactions coming before the Delaware County Council, boards, committees, and commissions.

2. Comply with the Law

Members and Appointees shall comply with the laws of the United States of America, the State of Indiana, and Delaware County in the performance of their public duties. These laws include, but are not limited to: The United States Constitution, Indiana Constitution, and all federal, state, and local laws pertaining to conflicts of interest, election campaigns, financial disclosures, employer responsibilities, and open processes of government, and County policies and procedures.

3. Conduct of Members

The professional and personal conduct of Members and Appointees must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members and Appointees shall refrain from rudeness, disrespectful comments, insults, name-calling, abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other Members of Council other Appointees, County personnel or the public.

4. Respect for Process

Members and Appointees shall perform their duties in accordance with the processes and rules of order as established by the County Council, or its respective boards, committees, and commissions governing the deliberation of public policy issues, meaningful involvement of the public, and implementation of policy decisions of the County Council by County personnel.

5. Conduct of Public Meetings

Members and Appointees shall prepare themselves for public issues, listen courteously and attentively to all public discussions before the body, and focus on the business at hand. Members and Appointees shall refrain from interrupting other speakers, making personal comments not germane to the business of the body, or otherwise interfering with the orderly conduct of meetings. The public, Members and Appointees should feel safe in expressing their opinions, views, and concerns.

6. Conflict of Interest

In order to ensure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, Members and Appointees shall not use their official positions to influence governmental decisions in which they have a material financial interest, or where they have an organizational responsibility or personal relationship, which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest. Members and Appointees shall disclose conflicts with investments, interest in real property, sources of income, and gifts without being required to disclose the value of said conflicts; and they shall abstain from participating in deliberations and decision making where conflicts may exist.

7. Independence of Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Appointees

Because of the value of the independent advice of boards, committees, and commissions to the public decision making process, Members of Council shall refrain from using their position to unduly influence the deliberations or outcomes of board, committee, and commission proceedings.

8. Positive Work Place Environment

Members and Appointees shall support the maintenance of a positive and constructive work place environment for County personnel and for citizens and organizations dealing with the County. Members and Appointees shall recognize their limited role in dealing with County personnel and in no way create the perception of inappropriate direction to County personnel.

Compliance and Enforcement

Delaware County Council Code of Conduct is intended to be self-enforcing. It therefore becomes most effective when Members and Appointees are thoroughly familiar with the code and embrace its provisions. Members and Appointees themselves have the primary responsibility to ensure that ethical standards are understood and met. The County Council, by majority vote, may also impose sanctions on Members and Appointees whose conduct does not comply with the County's ethical standards.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Official verbal reprimand in an open meeting.
- Formal public letter of censure.
- Removal of an Appointee from position.
- Other courses of action as they are made available by state statute with due process and agreed upon by a majority of the Delaware County Council.