

DIRECTOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Relative Information: The state laws related to conflicts of interest were established in 1974. The laws are now known as “Government Ethics.” They are included in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 244. Directors, Board Appointees (Budget Committee & Civil Service), District employees, and District volunteers are Public Officials as defined by the law.

In essence the laws require public officials to disclose any situation that could be either a potential or actual conflict of interest. An **actual conflict of interest** may arise when a public official takes official action that **would** financially impact the official, a relative or an associated business. A **potential conflict of interest** may arise when a public official takes official action that **could** financially impact the public official, the official’s relatives, or a business with which the public official or a relative is associated. The standards for disclosure and subsequent action depend on whether the circumstance in question is an actual or potential conflict.

The Board, in its desire to ensure all business decisions are made in full disclosure and compliance with the law, has implemented the practice of requiring Directors to annually submit an individual Statement of Acknowledgment concerning conflicts of interest. This process is designed to refresh Board member’s knowledge of the State of Oregon Government Ethics laws and does not relieve the Board member from declaring an actual/potential conflict before participating in any official action throughout the year.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors that all District members comply with the Oregon Ethics laws and may not request, accept, or take advantage of any preference that could result in financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment due to their association with the District.

It is further the policy of the Board of Directors that each Director submits an annual Statement of Acknowledgment in July addressing any known or anticipated conflicts of interest that may exist. Any time an unanticipated actual or a potential conflict situation occurs Board members must report it in public session.