

Republican State Central Committee's Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics for the Illinois

Republican State Central Committee

Prologue: Ethics, Integrity, and Transparency in Government

It is fundamental to the success of our republican system of government that all candidates, elected officials, and party leaders at all levels of government be independent and impartial, place the public interest above any private interest, and not give any appearance of impropriety. To that end, it is the policy of the Illinois Republican Party, and the Illinois Republican State Central Committee, to take a leading role in promoting the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and transparency in government.

Consistent with that policy, the State Central Committee hereby adopts the following Code of Ethics, which establishes rules to ensure that Members of the State Central Committee promote trust in government and public officials. The hallmark of this Code of Ethics is the simple truth that the public interest is and must be supreme for those who hold positions of public trust. The spirit and intent of the Code is to ensure that those who serve as State Central Committee Members do so for the sole benefit of the Republican Party and the general public, without any suggestion of service to promote their private interests.

This Code of Ethics shall apply to all elected and appointed State Central Committee Members and Officers, including, but not limited to, the Deputy Members, the State Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Co-Chairman (if any), the Executive Director, and the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman, but shall not apply to Advisory Members or appointed members of Committees and Task Forces who are not otherwise State Central Committee Members. To implement the Code of Ethics, all Members of the State Central Committee will be required to disclose their financial interests and obligations and to submit to the Ethics Review Committee (as defined in Article One below) regular and timely updates to their disclosure statements. By means of these reporting requirements and other provisions, the Code is designed to ensure that State Central Committee Members avoid activity that presents any actual or apparent conflict of interest with their responsibilities as State Central Committee Members. In addition, the Code of Ethics forbids Committee Members from seeking or accepting for themselves or family members any special consideration or special benefits that relate in any manner to their positions as State Central Committee Members. Finally, this Code of Ethics signifies that Members take seriously their responsibility to the public and other Members of the Central Committee to comply with all State Central Committee policies and the law.

By means of this Code of Ethics, the Illinois Republican Party and its Central Committee commit to furthering good government and holding party officials accountable to the highest ethical standards.

Article One: Disclosure of Sources of Income and Potential Conflicts

Mandatory Annual Disclosure Statement. Central Committee Members shall annually file on a prescribed form, within 30 days after being elected or appointed, and annually on or before May 1 thereafter, a disclosure statement setting forth the information specified below relating to the

Member's financial activity and employment for the preceding calendar year, including the financial activity and employment of the Member's spouse, and dependent children if the Member had actual control over such activity. Prior to April 1 of each year, the Executive Director shall notify all current State Central Committee Members of their duty to file annual disclosure statements on or before May 1. If there is a change in any information required to be reported pursuant to this Article, the Member must amend the disclosure statement within six months from any such change.

The disclosure statements shall be reviewed by the "Ethics Review Committee." The Ethics Review Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the Executive Director, one member of the Executive Committee, two additional State Central Committee Members, and two individuals who are not Members of the State Central Committee or elected officials, and who have declared their support for the Republican Party, each to be appointed by the Chairman with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee for a term not to exceed one year and for not more than one term in any four year period. Members of the Ethics Review Committee shall maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the disclosure statements and the information contained therein.

2. Content of Disclosure Statement. The disclosure statement shall include:

a. the Member's employment, including the name and address of Member's employer(s), and any other entity and any position held therein, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year. No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument need be listed;

b. the name and address of any corporation, professional organization or individual professional practice in which the Member was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor, or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year;

c. whether Member is a registered lobbyist, and the identity, including the name, of any compensated lobbyist with whom the Member maintains a close economic association, specifying the legislative matter or matters which are the object of the lobbying activity, and describing the general type of economic activity of the client or principal;

d. a description of any activity on behalf of any candidate for elective office or relating to any issue that appeared on the ballot during an election in the preceding calendar for which Member received compensation, and the amount of such compensation; and

e. the name of any entity, including a board, commission, authority or task force, created by Federal, State or local law, on which Member has served during the preceding calendar year.

Article Two: Avoidance of Actual or Apparent Conflicts of Interest

1. Disclosure With Respect to Publicly-Acquired Property. If a Member or his or her spouse, or dependent children if the Member had actual control over such activity, has a legal or equitable interest in real or personal property that is to be acquired with public funds, the member shall disclose such interest in writing at least 30 days before the date on which the property is to be purchased or condemned.

2. Disclosure With Respect to Businesses, Contracts, or Property. If a Central Committee Member or his or her spouse, or dependent children if the Member had actual control over such activity, has a substantial interest in a business, contract, property or other entity on which a special economic effect, as distinguished from an effect on the public at large, would be conferred by a vote or decision of the

Central Committee, the Member shall promptly disclose to the Chairman such interest in writing before the vote or decision concerning the business, contract or property is to take place. The Central Committee Member may not participate in the consideration of the matter and shall be recused from any vote or decision on the matter.

3. Appearance of Impropriety. A Member and his or her first degree relatives should avoid accepting any economic opportunity or gift and a Member should avoid participating in any vote or decision of the State Central Committee that could be perceived to impact that Member's independence of judgment, or that presents any actual or apparent conflict of interest with that Member's responsibilities as a State Central Committee Member.

Article Three: Ban on Special Consideration and Special Benefits

1. No State Central Committee Member of the Central Committee or his or her first degree relatives shall solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit as consideration for any official decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or other exercise of discretion.

2. No State Central Committee Member or his or her first degree relative shall be appointed, elected, or hired for State Central Committee business. This provision shall not prevent the retention or advancement of any person who has been continuously employed in his or her position for at least 30 days prior to the election or appointment of a Member or Officer related to such person; provided, however, that the Member or Officer related to that person shall not participate in any deliberation, voting or appointment process relating to that person.

3. A Member shall not use confidential information for the purpose of acquiring or helping another acquire a pecuniary interest in any property, transaction, or enterprise that might be affected by confidential information, or speculate or aid another in speculating on the basis of confidential information. Furthermore, a Member shall not disclose confidential information, including Party matters discussed at closed meetings, information that is intended for a limited group, including but not limited to Voter Vault, or any other information obtained by a Member in the course of State Central Committee business that a Member should reasonably expect is intended to be confidential

Article Four: General Prohibitions and Guidelines

1. A Member employed by federal, state or local government shall scrupulously adhere to the legal prohibitions against engaging in political activity during compensated time, other than time off.

2. A Member shall not engage in any activity or transaction that at the time of the activity is prohibited by any law.

3. Any doubt as to the propriety of any course of action relating to this Code of Ethics or State Central Committee duties should be discussed with a member of the Ethics Committee.

4. Any question of interpretation of the provisions of this Code shall be resolved by the Ethics Review

Committee in closed session, after thorough review of the pertinent disclosure statements and any other investigation that is warranted in the circumstances.

Article Five: Enforcement

1. Responsibility for adherence to this Code and to all requirements of the law related to public service rests with the person to whom the Code and law apply.
2. When the Ethics Review Committee becomes aware that any Member is or may be in noncompliance with any of the provisions of this Code of Ethics, the Ethics Review Committee will request the Member to remedy the noncompliance forthwith. If after such request by the Ethics Review Committee, a Member refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this Code, the Ethics Review Committee will refer the matter to a closed session of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may vote to request that the Member resign from the State Central Committee and, after such vote, will notify the State Central Committee and the appropriate Congressional Committee that the Member is not in compliance and has been asked to resign from the State Central Committee.
3. The identity of any individual providing information or reporting any possible noncompliance with this Ethics Code to the Ethics Review Committee shall be kept confidential and may not be disclosed without the consent of the individual. Furthermore, any deliberations of the Ethics Review Committee and the Executive Committee pursuant to this Ethics Code shall remain confidential unless and until the Executive Committee votes to request the resignation of a Member as provided for in Paragraph 2 above.

APPENDIX

Definitions of Terms Used in the Code of Ethics

1. "Benefit" means anything reasonably regarded as pecuniary or economic gain or pecuniary or economic advantage, including benefit to any other person in whose welfare the beneficiary has a direct and substantial interest.
2. "Confidential information" means any information to which the Member has access in his or her official capacity and which has not been made public or may not be made public.
3. "Contract" means any lease, claim, account or demand against or agreement with any person, whether express or implied, executed or executory, verbal or in writing.
4. "Decision" means the exercise of discretion by a Member and/or the Central Committee.
5. "Economic opportunity" means any purchase, sale, lease, contract, option, or other transaction or arrangement involving property or services wherein a legislator may gain an economic benefit.
6. "Employment" means any rendering of services for pay, or anything of value.
7. "Gift" means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value, including honoraria for speaking engagements.
8. "Lobbyist" means any person required to be registered under "An Act concerning lobbying and providing a penalty for violation thereof," approved July 10, 1957, as amended.

9. "Participate" means to take part in official acts or actions or proceedings as a Member of the Central Committee through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, investigation, the rendering of advice or the failure to act or perform a duty.

10. "Person" means an individual, business, labor organization, representative fiduciary, trust or association.

11. "First-degree relation" means an individual's spouse, parents and children, as well as the spouse of each of these relatives.

12. "State Central Committee Member" means each elected and appointed State Central Committee Member and Officer, including, but not limited to, the Deputy Members, the State Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Co-Chairman (if any), the Executive Director, and the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman, but does not include Advisory Members or appointed members of Committees and Task Forces who are not otherwise State Central Committee Members.

13. "A substantial interest" means any economic interest of a Member if:

a. the Member owns individually 7_ percent or more, or, in conjunction with his or her spouse, 15 percent or more, of the voting stock or shares of a business entity;

b. funds received by the Member from a business entity exceed 10 percent of his or her gross income for the previous year;

c. the Member has an equitable or legal ownership interest in real property with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more;

d. the Member is entitled to a commission or fee arising out of a contractual relationship relating to real property or to a contract which would benefit by Central Committee action;

e. in the case of a political organization or campaign committee, funds are to be used on behalf of a Member's election or reelection campaign.

14. "Transaction" means the conduct of any activity that results in or may result in an official act or action of the State Central Committee.