

Code of Ethics for the Surry County Board of Elections, Surry County (Dobson), North Carolina

Whereas, as appointed Members of Surry County Board of Elections by the NC State Board of Elections, we are charged with upholding the trust of the citizens of the Surry County, North Carolina and with obeying relevant laws within North Carolina.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved: In recognition of our obligations as appointed Members of the Surry County Board of Elections representing the citizens of Surry County and acting pursuant to the requirements of Chapter #163 of North Carolina General Statutes and other laws as applicable, we the Surry County Board of Elections do hereby adopt the following general principles and Code of Ethics to guide our Board in its lawful decision making.

Code of Ethics

Purpose: The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for board members and to provide guidance in determining what conduct is appropriate in particular cases. It is supplemental to the legal obligations of the Board and should not be considered a substitute for statutory obligations.

Section 1. Board Members should take care to obey all laws that apply to their official actions as Board Members, which may come from North Carolina General Statutes, particularly Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes, written 'Memorandums' or other formal guidance from the NC State Board of Elections and State or County written policies. Members should be guided by the spirit as well as the letter of the law in whatever they do. At the same time, board members should feel free to assert positions and opinions without fear of reprisal from fellow board members or citizens. The board should set a good example for others in the community, keeping in mind that trust and respect must continually be earned.

Section 2. Board Members should act with integrity as they exercise the functions of their office. Board Members should avoid impropriety in the exercise of their official duties. Their official actions should reflect the highest levels of professionalism and a concern for fair and open elections. Board Members should use their best independent judgment to pursue the common good of all Surry County registered voters and political candidates, presenting their opinions to all in a reasonable, forthright, consistent manner. They should not be subject to improper influence, while at the same time being able to consider the opinions and ideas of others, however at all times, individual Board Members should recognize that they are part of a larger group and should act accordingly. They should respect their Board and not act in ways that reflect badly on it. They should treat other Board Members and the public with respect and

should honor the opinions of others even when they disagree. They should recognize that they are not generally authorized to act on behalf of the board individually since the board must take official action as a body in quorum.

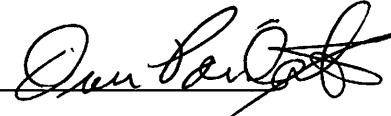
Section 3. Board Members should be faithful in their attendance at meetings and in the preparation for those meetings. Some meetings mandate all Members of the Board be present. They should carefully analyze all credible information that is provided to them. Periodic training offered by the NC State Board of Elections and the County staff should be attended by all Members of the Board.

The Board shall endeavor to keep itself up-to-date through its attorney or other sources of new or on-going legal or ethical quandaries or difficulties that they may face in their official positions.

Board Members should be willing to bear their fair share of the board's workload and they should be willing to put the board's interests ahead of their own.

Section 4. The Board should conduct the affairs in an open and public manner. They should comply with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records, recognizing that doing so is an important way to be worthy of the public's trust. The Board recognizes that a vital part of this obligation includes respecting and honoring the confidentiality of those matters which are legally required to be held confidential. This recognition includes sensitivity to those matters recognized by law. Closed sessions of the Board should only be held when necessitated for legal reasons afforded.

Adopted: 7/18/2023

Secretary of the Board: 

The Surry County Board of Elections is committed to maintaining current and accurate voter records, maximizing voter registration efforts, promoting voter turnout, and educating the public on voting and election issues. We continually strive to provide the highest level of professional standards to ensure accurate, fair, honest and impartial elections at a minimal cost to the electorate through accountability, transparency and integrity. We work under the guidance and supervision of a five-member board, directed by the NC State Board of Elections, and in compliance with the laws and General Statutes of North Carolina.