



City of Auburn, Maine

Office of the City Clerk

sdallaire@auburnmaine.gov

60 Court Street

Auburn, Maine 04210

207.333.6601 Extension 1126

The Ethics Panel Overview

Membership:

There shall be established an ethics panel consisting of three regular voting members and two alternate members. Two regular voting members and one alternate member of the ethics panel shall be appointed by the mayor with approval of a majority of the members of the city council, and one regular voting member and one alternate member of the ethics panel shall be appointed by the chair of the school committee with approval of a majority of the members of the school committee. A regular voting member or alternate member of the ethics panel may not hold any other city or school department office or position or be a member of any board or commission to which the city council or school committee has appointing authority.

Term:

The regular voting members of the ethics panel shall be appointed to staggered three-year terms. When the first appointments are made, one member shall be appointed by the mayor to a three-year term, one member shall be appointed by the chair of the school committee to a two-year term, and one member shall be appointed by the mayor to a one-year term. The mayor annually shall appoint one of the regular voting members to serve as chair of the ethics panel. Alternate members shall be appointed to three-year terms.

Purpose:

It is the policy of the city that the proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials be independent, impartial and responsible to the citizens, that public office not be used for personal gain, and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its municipal government. The purpose and intent of this division is to promote the objective of protecting the integrity of the government of the city against actual or reasonably perceived conflicts of interest without creating unnecessary barriers to public service. This division shall not prevent the city council, the school committee, the city manager or the superintendent of schools from adopting additional procedures and employment standards intended to prevent the exercise or appearance of improper influence or bias in the conduct of government business.

Time Commitment:

The Ethics Panel will meet as needed.

Qualifications:

Potential members of the Ethics Panel should have general interest in sound government practices that are transparent and free of conflict or unfair practices. Members should also have the ability to take a broad view of the needs of the community as a whole. Above all, potential members need to possess time, a flexible schedule and willingness to be an engaged and active member.



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Desired Skill Sets/Background:

Engineers

Attorneys

Local business owners

Law enforcement officials

Judicial system professionals

Human Resource professionals

Senior military officials (retired, active, or reserve)

Effect of recommendations of ethics panel:

The opinion and recommendations of the ethics panel shall be advisory only. The members of a municipal board may vote to adopt the recommendation of the ethics panel as it relates to the participation in a matter by a public official.