



# The Ohio Ethics Law: Lights, Camera, Action!

Susan Willeke  
Training & Communication Manager  
Ohio Ethics Commission



# The Ohio Ethics Law



- Investigation
- Advice
- Education
- Financial Disclosure

**SCENE**

**TAKE**

**ROLL**

**DATE**

**SOUND**

**DIRECTOR**



**Conflicts of Interest**

**Gifts**

**Public Contracts**

**Sales to Agencies**

**Nepotism**

**Post-Employment**





The image shows a corkboard with several items related to film production. On the left, a hand holds a clapperboard with the text 'UNIVERSAL STUDIOS.' and a table with columns for 'SCENE', 'TAKE', 'ROLL', 'DATE', 'PROD.CO.', and 'DIRECTOR'. To the right, there is a camera, a microphone, and a strap. The text 'Conflicts of Interest' is overlaid in the center.

# Conflicts of Interest

ORC 102.03(D)

## “Definite and Direct”

- Self
- Family
- Business Associates

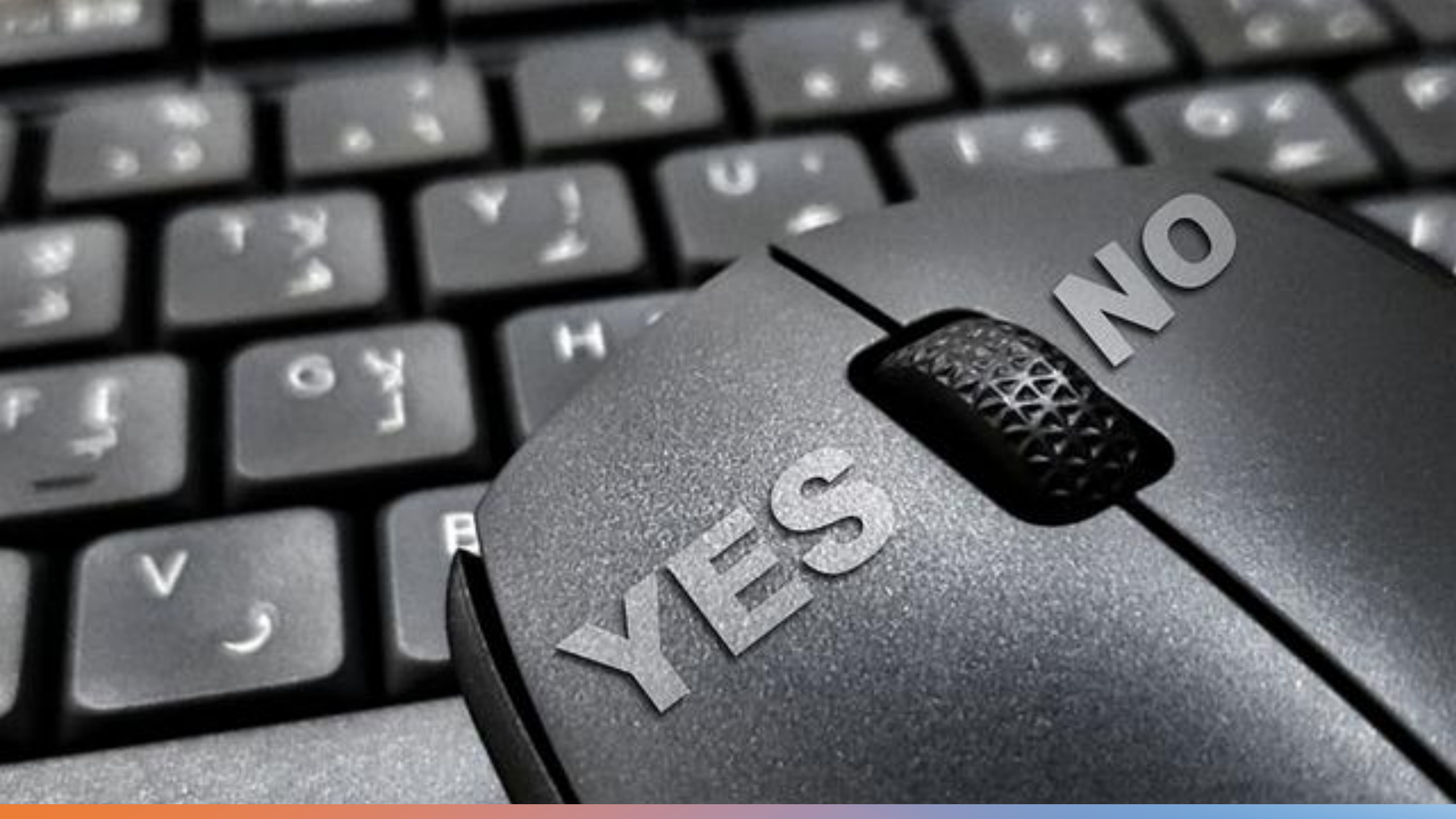




# Recuse – Abstain – Withdraw aka “Sit This One Out!”



- Voting
- Discussing
- Reviewing
- Recommending
- Inspecting
- Investigating
- Any other action!



YES

NO



**Is a member of the Turnpike Commission prohibited from voting on a toll increase since he drives on the turnpike to work every day?**





No!





You are the  
Academy!

## And the nominees are:

- A. Jail official requires employee to perform plumbing work in official's home on public time
- B. Zoning board member votes on sister's re-zoning request to allow exotic zoo on her property
- C. School counselor emails district parents about his private counseling business







And the  
“bad actor”  
award goes to...







Dishonorable  
mention...



# Advisory Opinion 96 – 004



## OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION

8 East Long Street, Suite 1200

Columbus, Ohio 43215-2940

Telephone: (614) 466-7090

Fax: (614) 466-8368

Advisory Opinion Number 96-004

November 15, 1996

bus by the Commission:

(1) The Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes do not prohibit public officials and employees from engaging in private outside employment or business activities provided that no conflict of interest exists between the private interests and public duties of the public official or employee and there is no misuse of the public office or employment of the official or employee, as described below;

(2) Divisions (D) and (E) of Section 102.03 of the Revised Code prohibits a public official or employee from engaging in private outside employment or business activity with parties that are interested in matters before, regulated by, or doing or seeking to do business with his own public agency unless it is determined by his public employer that he is able to withdraw, as a public official or employee, from consideration of matters that affect the interests of the party with which he desires to engage in private outside employment or business activity;





Recuse!

Questions?



# Gifts

ORC 102.03(E)  
ORC 102.03(F)







**SUBSTANTIAL  
IMPROPER**

**ILLEGAL**

# “Improper”

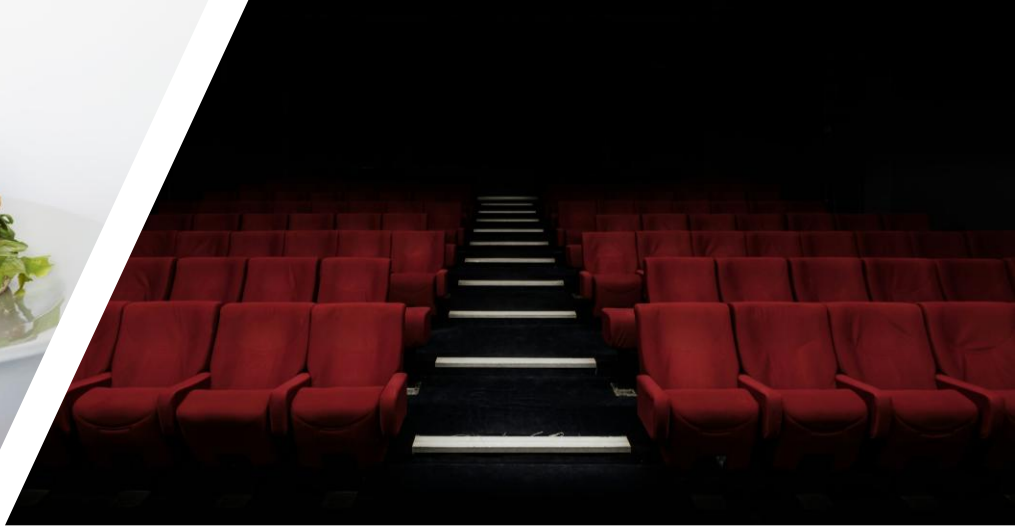
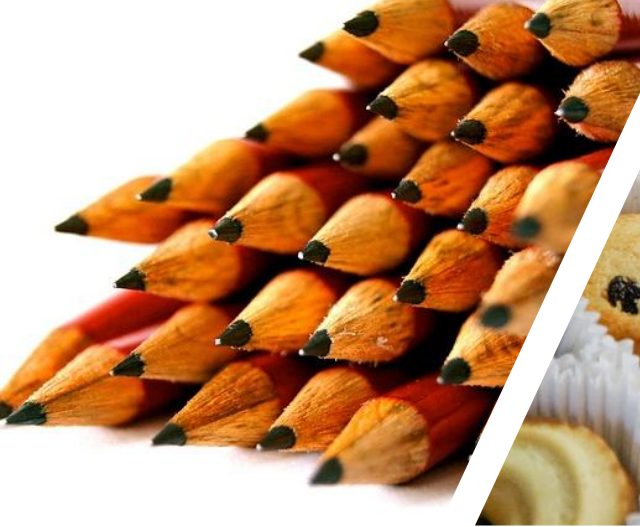
- Doing business
- Seeking to do business
- Regulated by
- Interest in



**SUBSTANTIAL  
IMPROPER**

**ILLEGAL**

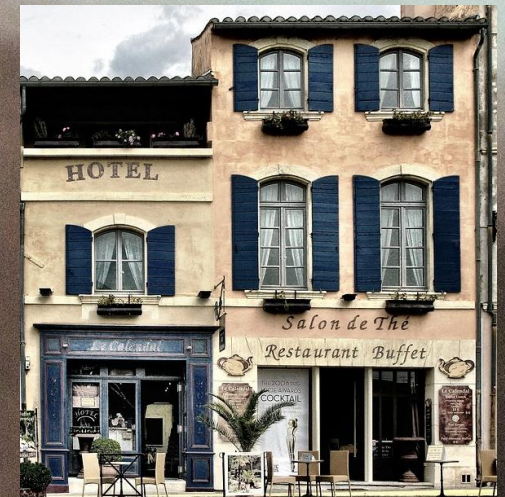
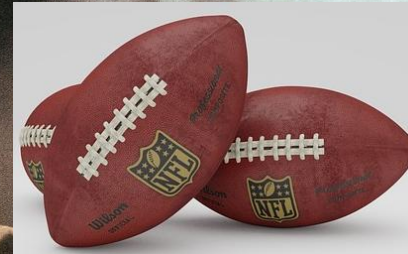
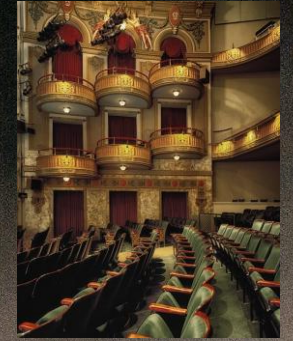




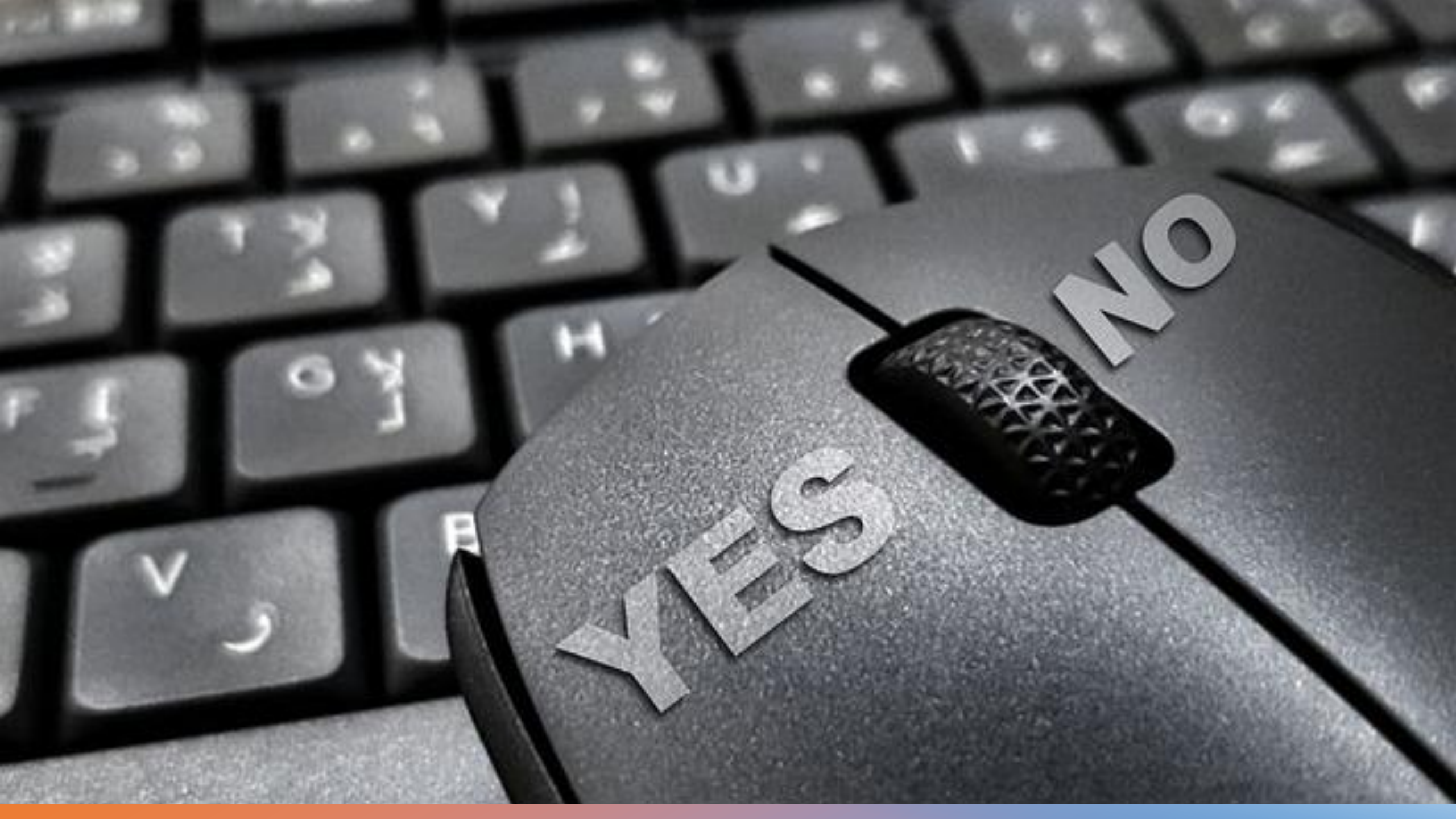
Nominal  
“De Minimis”



# Substantial



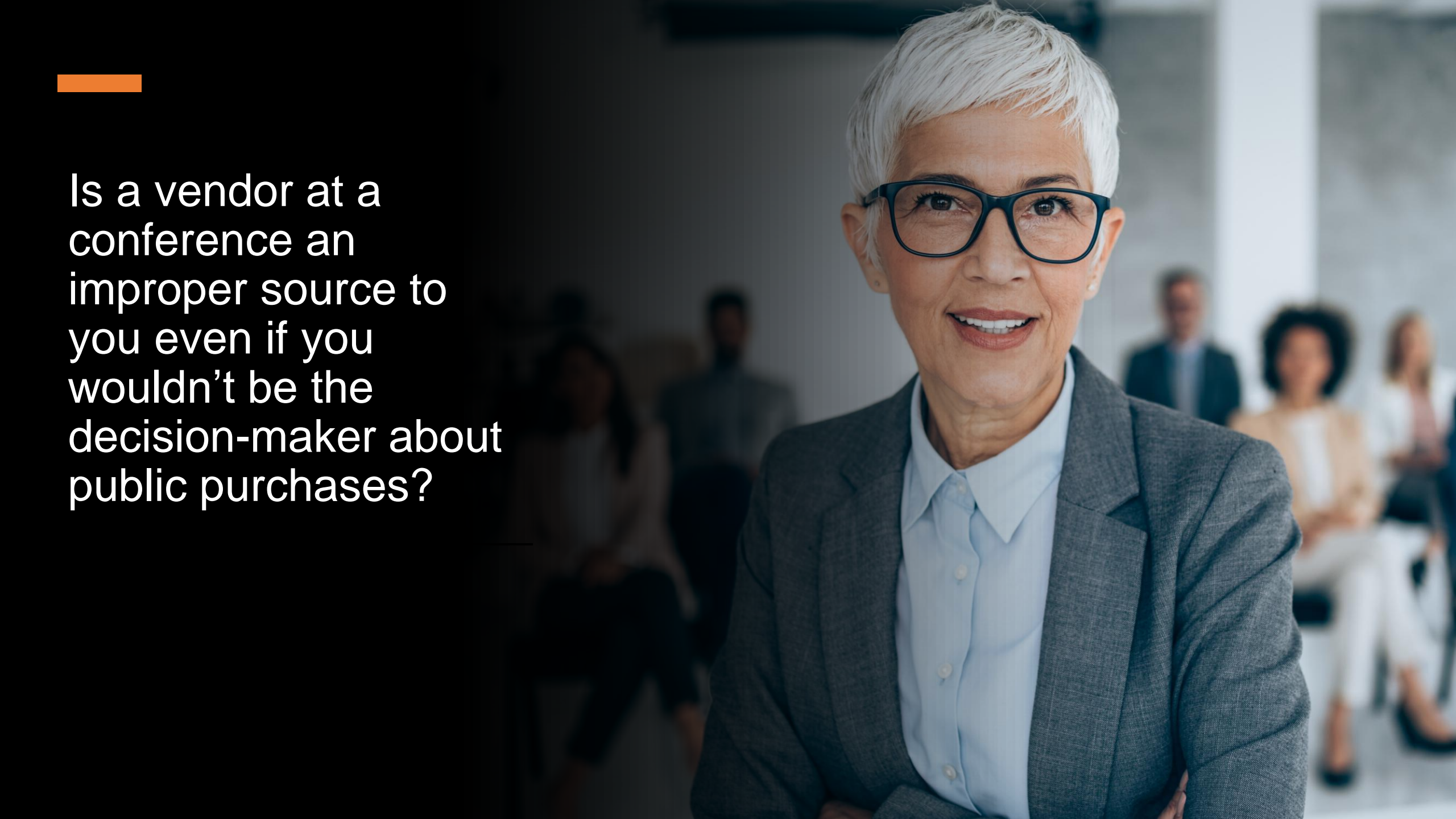




YES

NO





Is a vendor at a conference an improper source to you even if you wouldn't be the decision-maker about public purchases?



**Yes!**





**SUBSTANTIAL  
IMPROPER**

**ILLEGAL**



You are the  
Academy!

## And the nominees are:

- A. Township trustee solicits ATV from local company
- B. A Dept. of Agriculture employee accepts show horse from regulated party
- C. Police officer admits cop friends into NFL game where is providing security



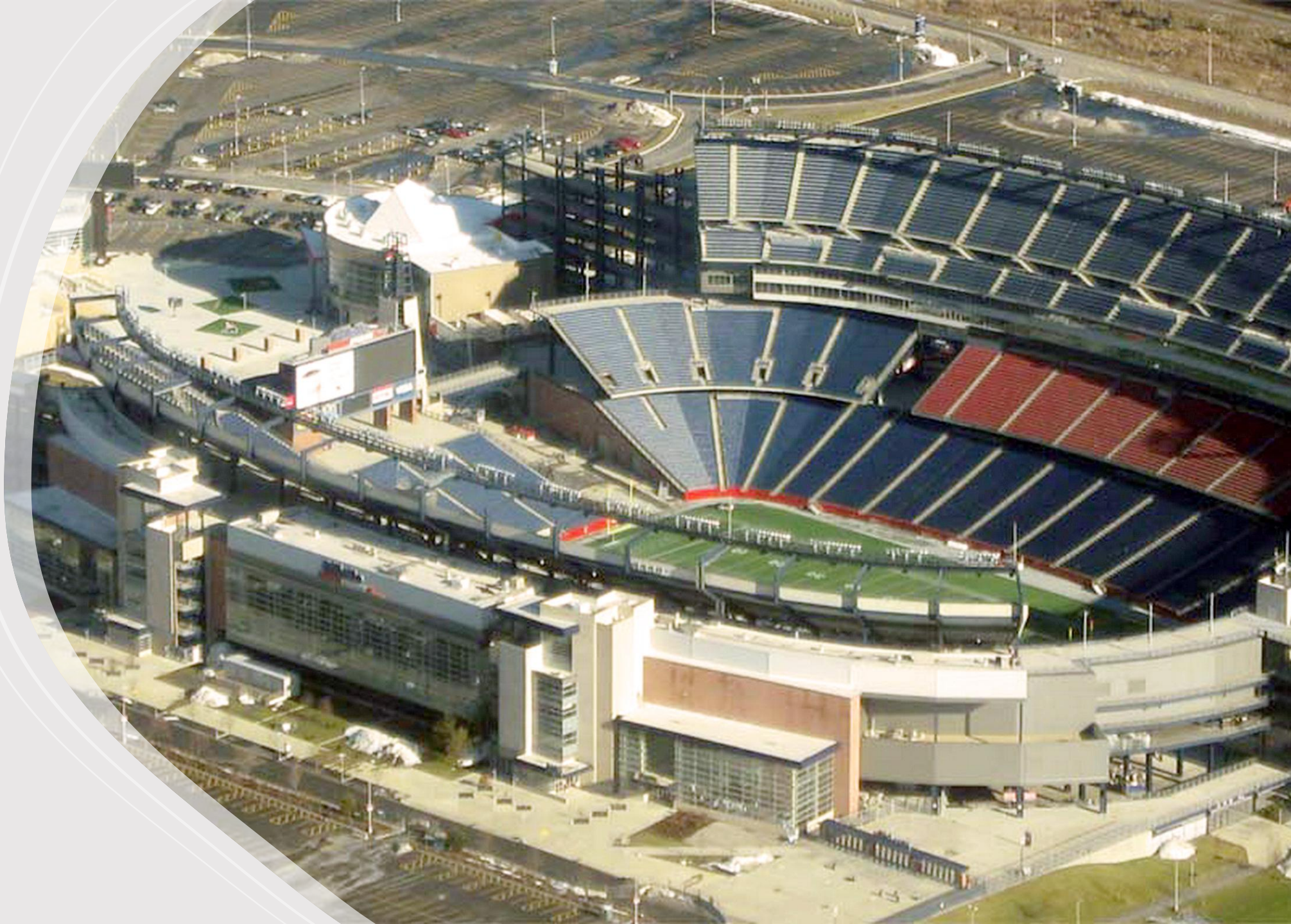




And the  
“bad actor”  
award goes to...



**Bad  
Idea!**







Dishonorable  
mention...





CIBC  
Theatre



HAMILTON

AN AMERICAN MUSICAL





Substantial + Improper = Illegal!

**ORC 2921.43**

**Supplemental Compensation**





Questions?





# Public Contracts

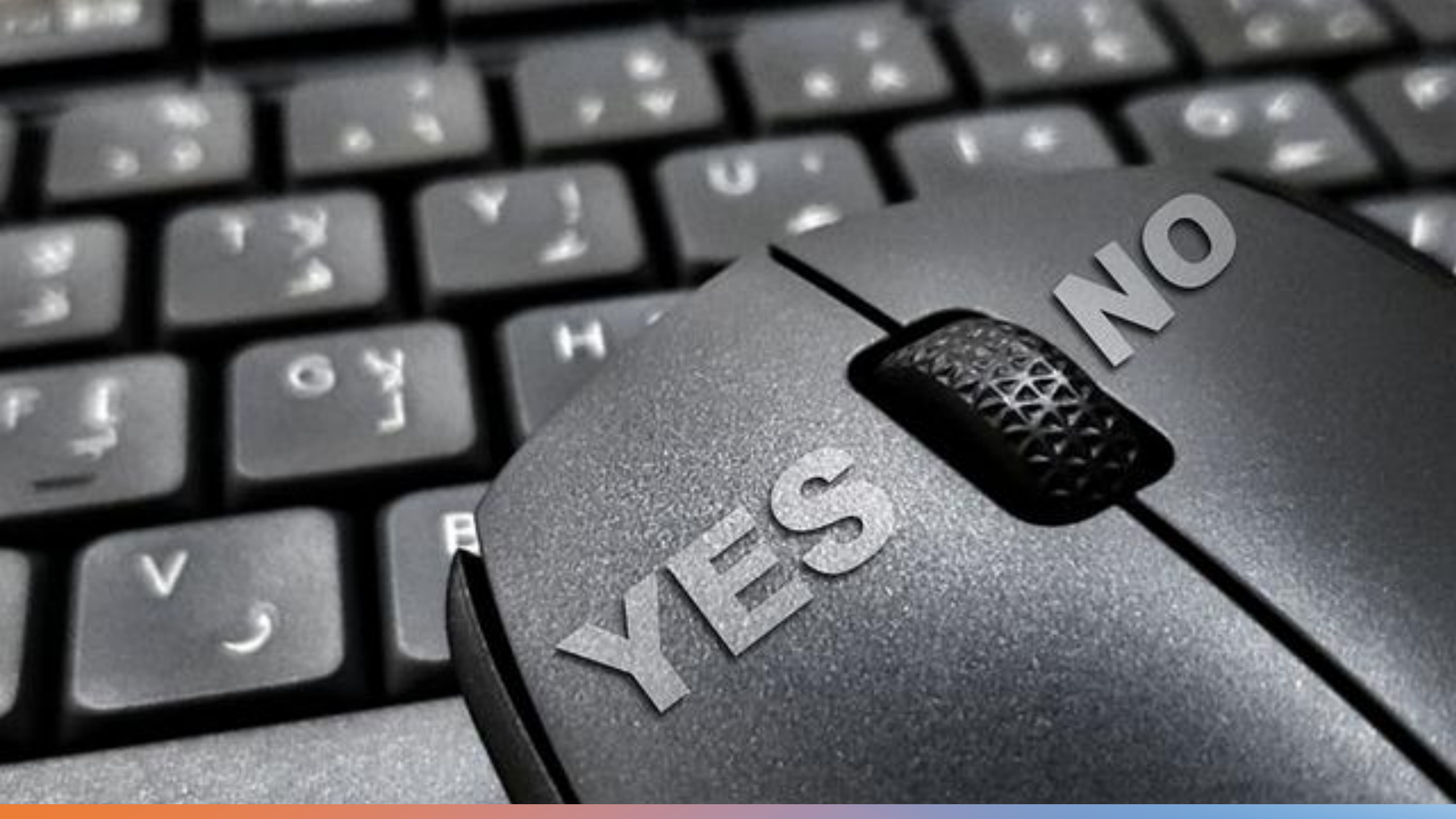


A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a silver and black fountain pen, signing a document. The hand is dark-skinned and is positioned over a white document with some text and a signature. The background is slightly blurred, showing a wooden desk and a person's arm in a light-colored shirt.

# Public Contracts

ORC 2921.42(A)(1)

- Self
- Family
- Business associates



YES

NO



Can your spouse get the concrete contract with the agency you serve?



Maybe!







You are the  
Academy!

# And the nominees are:

- A. Village employee deliberately damages village heat exchanger so his brother's HVAC company gets more work
- B. School board member ensures School Resources Officers are retained only from township where she works
- C. Mayor announces that all city construction work will now go through company he owns







And the  
“bad actor”  
award goes to...





SCHOOL BUS

EMERGENCY DOOR







# Public Contracts

ORC 2921.42(A)(1)

- Self
- Family
- Business associates

# Nepotism





# “Family”

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- Spouse
- Siblings
- Children/Step-children
- Grandchildren
- Parents/Step-parents
- Any other relative residing in your home







# Public Contracts

ORC 2921.42(A)(1)

- Self
- Family
- Business associates





## **Selling to Public Agencies** **ORC 2921.42(A)(4)**

Can't sell goods or services to our  
own public entity



**YES**

**NO**





**Can a police chief's private security system outfit the police department with security equipment if he isn't the authorizing signatory?**



No!



Questions?



# The Revolving Door

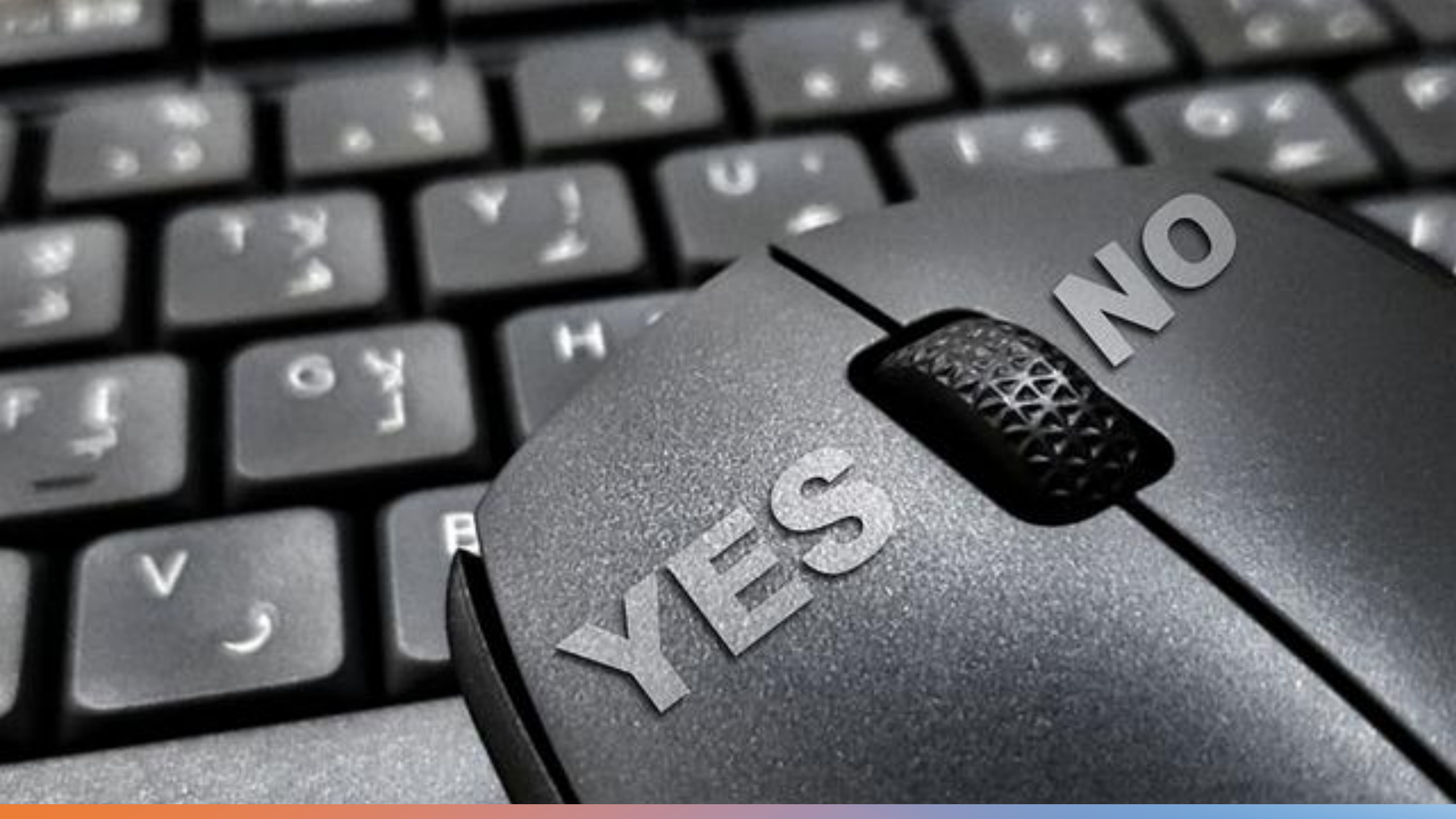


(aka Post-Employment) ORC 102.03(A)



- One year
- Representation
- Personal Participation









In Ohio, can you contact your former colleagues socially after your departure?



**Yes!**



TOP SECRET



Confidentiality  
ORC 102.03(B)

Questions?





*And that's a wrap!*



# Ohio Ethics Commission

(614) 466 – 7090

[www.ethics.ohio.gov](http://www.ethics.ohio.gov)



*The End*