The Ohio Ethics Law and County Commissioners

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Hot Topics for Elected Officials

- Conflicts of Interest
- Gifts
- Public Contracts
- Financial Disclosure
Conflicts of Interest

ORC 102.03(D)
Nominal or "De Minimus"
Substantial
Public Contracts
1. Don’t authorize contracts for self, family, business associates
2. Don’t sell goods/services to your county government
3. Don’t hire your family!
Financial Disclosure Statements
FDS Purpose

• Help FDS filers avoid ethical conflicts

• Promote confidence in government through transparency
FDS Filers

- More than 10,000 filers in 2016

- 82% filed electronically
What Disclosed?

- Sources of income
- Investments
- Businesses & Family
- Travel expenses
- Gifts
- Ohio real estate
- Creditors/debtors
Sources of Income

- My public employer
- Any outside employer or private business
- Sources of interest and dividends
Investments

• Must disclose each:
  – Trust
  – Business trust
  – Partnership
  – Association

• Filer had more than $1,000 investment
Investment Issues

- “Transacting business in Ohio”
- Public retirement or social security
- Brokerage accounts & trusts
- Deferred compensation
Family Members & Business Names

• “Immediate family members”

• Business name
Travel Expenses

• Source and amount of every payment (official duties only)

• Travel inside or outside of Ohio

• Each payment or reimbursement listed separately

• Payments or reimbursements to filer (or another person for filer’s use)
Travel Expenses -
Filer must list:

- Agency as source of travel expense
- Multiple payments from same source
- Payments to vendor for filer’s use
Travel Expenses - Not Included:

- Personal travel
- Conference registration fees
- Use of agency vehicle
Gifts

Each source of gift more than $75

• Even from friends
• Cumulative
• Group gift
Real Estate

• Leasehold & ownership interests
• Excludes
  – Personal residence
  – Real estate used for personal recreation
Creditors & Debtors

• Creditors
  – Credit cards
  – Contractors
  – State & federal government
  – Child support
  – Student loan
  – Co-signor
  – Family debt

• Debtors
Ohio Ethics Commission

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www.ethics.ohio.gov