



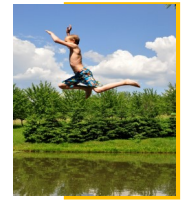
Summertime Edition from the WV Ethics Commission

Our next virtual training on the Ethics Act and the Open Meetings Act is on July 30, 2025, from 12 noon - 1pm. Earn 1 hour CLE/CPE credit. Email kimberly.b.weber@wv.gov for an invite.

Summertime Reminders

Summer Jobs for Children: The nepotism restrictions apply to temporary summer jobs. The restrictions apply when hiring someone you live with, your children, spouse, parents, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, and some in-laws. The prohibitions include:

- A public employee or official may not participate in hiring a person listed above.
- A public employee or official may not directly supervise a person listed above.
- A public official may not vote on a personnel matter involving a person listed above.
- [See Legislative Rule § 158-6-3.](#)



Summer conferences: Personalized training sessions on the Ethics and Open Meetings Acts for professional associations and other large groups are available. See [Training Request Form fillable.pdf](#).

Tips: Public W-2 employees, including part-time summer workers, may not accept over \$25 from a customer per calendar year in tips under the Ethics Act. See [AO 2021-17](#). See page 2 for more reminders.

NEW ADVISORY OPINIONS

2025-04 A board of education member may not hire a school bus operator during non-school hours to drive him to and from his place of business. The school bus operator is a subordinate subject to the direction, supervision, and control of the board of education member. Therefore, hiring the bus operator as his driver or chauffeur would constitute the improper solicitation of business in contravention of W. Va. Code §6B-2-5(o).



2025-05 A law enforcement agency may lend its name to an event sponsored by a nonprofit organization for the purpose of raising funds for cancer research, a charitable purpose. The specific restrictions that apply to all public officials and public employees who are soliciting for charitable purposes are in [W. Va. Code Rule § 158-7 Gifts & Charitable Contributions](#). Law enforcement officers who are seeking donations for charities must abide by additional, stricter rules, which are set out in W. Va. Code Rule § 158-7-8. For example, law enforcement officers may not solicit for charity while in uniform, but they may show identification upon request and may solicit donations for charity while they are out of uniform and when they are off duty. Law enforcement officers may also deliver proceeds raised for a charitable cause to the recipient while they are in uniform and on duty.

New Contract Exemption

CE [2025-03](#) Pocahontas County Sheriff

The Ethics Commission granted a contract exemption to Troy A. McCoy, the Pocahontas County Sheriff, allowing the Sheriff's Office to contract with Shinaberry's Graphics, LLC, a business owned and operated by Deputy Brian Shinaberry, to install graphics and decals on police department vehicles.

More Summertime Reminders

Soliciting Donations

- If you ask for donations to support a cause or an event, make sure the donation is for a "charitable purpose." Examples may be found on our [website](#) on our advisory opinions index page: "[Gifts - Acceptance and Solicitations](#)."
- Do not ask subordinates to make donations.
- The manner of solicitation must conform with the requirements in Legislative Rule [W. Va. Code R. § 158-7-7](#).
- Do not donate *public* funds to a charity unless there is legal authority to do so.

Employee Appreciation Events

Public agencies may host staff events that recognize public employees, with limitations. The event may include food, beverages, entertainment, and a gift or memento. Public funds of up to \$25 per employee per year may be used, and coworkers may contribute any amount of their personal money for the event. See our [Guideline](#), which includes other limitations, e.g.:

- Do not accept gifts or services for an event valued at over \$25 per year from a person or entity with a matter pending before you or your subordinate.
- Do not ask subordinates to make donations.

Lobbying News

Deadline: Public Lobbying Contracts: By July 1 of each year, state agencies, municipalities, counties, and school districts in WV that have contracted with a person or an entity for lobbying services must disclose specific information to the Ethics Commission. For more information, visit the Ethics Commission's.

Searchable database: Did you know that our online lobbyist database uses searchable PDFs? Simply use the search box or hit ctrl/f and type in your search term. Search our [Lobbyist Directory](#) and [Spending Reports](#). For questions, contact: kateland.j.cantrell@wv.gov.



Legislation Update

On April 30, the Governor issued the following [veto of House Bill 2120](#).

[Senate Bill 745](#) did not pass the Senate and House.

These bills would have made substantial changes to lobbying laws in West Virginia.

To search our website pages, use:

