

## Board Member Ethics and Nepotism

In order to avoid both potential and actual conflicts of interests, Board members will abide by the following rules when a Board member's relative or member of the household is seeking and/or holds a position with the district:

1. A Board member may not appoint, employ, promote, discharge, fire, or demote, or advocate for such an employment decision for a relative or member of the household, unless the Board member complies with the conflict of interest requirements of ORS Chapter 244;
2. This policy does not apply to decisions regarding unpaid volunteer positions unless it is a Board member position or another Board-related unpaid volunteer position (i.e., a Board committee position);
3. A Board member may not participate as a public official in any interview, discussion, or debate regarding the appointment, employment, promotion, discharge, firing, or demotion of a relative or member of the household. A Board member may still serve as a reference or provide a recommendation.

For the purposes of this policy, a "member of the household" means any person who resides with the Board member and "relative" means spouse<sup>1</sup>, parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of the Board member; or the parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of the spouse of the Board member. Relative also includes any individual for whom the Board member has a legal support obligation, whose employment provides benefits<sup>2</sup> to the Board member, or who receives any benefit from the Board member's public employment.

### Class Exception

It will not be a conflict of interest if the Board member's action would affect to the same degree a class including the Board member's relative or household member. For example, if a Board member's spouse is a member of the collective bargaining unit, the Board member may vote to approve the contract, as it will affect all members of that class to the same degree.

END OF POLICY

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<sup>1</sup>The term spouse includes domestic partner.

<sup>2</sup>Examples of benefits may include, but not be limited to, elements of an official compensation package including benefits such as insurance, tuition or retirement allotments.

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 244.010 to -244.400](#)  
[ORS 659A.309](#)

[OAR 199-005-0001 to -199-010-0150](#)

OR. ETHICS COMM'N, OR. GOV'T ETHICS LAW, A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

**Cross Reference(s):**

BBFA - Board Member Ethics and Conflicts of Interest