

## **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 a 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 a 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:

1. The Board member's spouse or domestic partner;
2. Any children of the Board member, or his/her spouse, or his/her domestic partner; and
3. Brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, stepparents, stepchildren, or parents of the Board member, or the parents of his/her spouse, or his/her domestic partner.

### **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

---

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 244.010](#) to-244.400

[ORS 332.016](#)

[ORS 659A.309](#)

[OAR 199-005-0005](#) to-199-020-0020

[OAR 584-020-0040](#)

OR. ETHICS COMM'N, OR. GOV'T ETHICS LAW, A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (2008).