

**Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law
MGL, c. 268A
Timothy S. Higgins, Town Administrator
March, 2015**

Intent

- To develop public trust and confidence in government.
- It accomplishes this by creating a code of conduct for public officials.

Enforcement

- State Ethics Commission; civil and criminal penalties are available.

Key Provisions

1. Don't ask for or accept gifts (\$50) from anyone with whom you have official dealings.
2. Don't hire, promote or supervise family members.
3. Don't take actions that will affect the financial interest of you or your family.
4. Officials generally may not hold more than one position.
5. You may not represent anyone but the town in any matter that the town has an interest in.
6. Don't disclose confidential information.
7. Don't use public resources for private purposes.
8. After leaving public service, you may not take a job involving public contracts or any other matter in which you participated as a public official.

Appearance of Conflict

- Avoid conduct that creates even the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- Recuse self from voting or even deliberating.

