

Conflict of Interest

In brief, a public official is met with a conflict of interest when participating in official action which could or would result in a financial benefit or detriment to the public official, a relative of the public official or a business with which either is associated.

Oregon Government Ethics law identifies two types of conflict of interest. The difference between an actual conflict of interest and a potential conflict of interest is determined by the words "would" and "could". A public official is met with an **actual** conflict of interest when the public official participates in action that **would** affect the financial interest of the official, the official's relative or a business with which the official or a relative is associated.

A public official is met with a **potential** conflict of interest when the public official participates in action that **could** affect the financial interest of the official, a relative of that official or a business with which the official or the relative of that official is associated.

You must publicly disclose the nature of a conflict of interest in each occasion that you are met with that conflict. Elected or appointed members of the board and commissions must use the following methods of handling conflicts:

- **Potential Conflict of Interest:** Following the public announcement, you may participate in official action on the issue that gave rise to the conflict of interest.
- **Actual Conflict of Interest:** Following the public announcement, you must refrain from further participation in official action (I.E. debate, discussion or voting) on the issue that gave rise to the conflict of interest.



