



Charles County Ethics Commission

Henry Collins, Jr., Chairman
Stephen P. Fitzgerald, Esquire Vice Chairman
Natalie Cotton
Lisa Elliott
Ralph Patterson

February 24, 2020

Melody Weschler, Clerk

Dear Official/Employee/Member:

Chapter 170 of the Charles County Code of Ethics requires certain officials, employees and members of certain boards and commissions to annually file a Financial Disclosure Statement.

Form 1 is designed for County Elected Officials, Candidates for County Office, County Administrator, County Attorney, County Department Heads and members of the following boards, which receive stipends: Board of Appeals, Board of Electrical Examiners, Board of License Commissioners and Planning Commission. **Form 2** is designed for qualifying employees as listed in Section 170-6 of the Code and members who volunteer on the remaining boards listed in Section 170-7 of the Code. Regardless of the form completed, members of boards and commissions listed in Section 170-7 of the County Code are required to disclose the information specified in § 170-6(3) only with respect to those interests, gifts, compensated positions and liabilities that may create a conflict, as provided in §170-5 of the Code, between the member's personal interests and the member's official duties.

Attached is the appropriate form. Please read carefully and follow the instructions, answer the questions, type or print legibly, and only fill out the necessary schedules that apply to you. Return the original signed form, along with any attachments, to Charles County Ethics Commission, c/o Melody Weschler, Clerk to the Ethics Commission, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646, **NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2020.** Failure to return the signed, completed form by this date will result in such failure being reported to the County Ethics Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. Sanctions may include any or all actions authorized by § 170-10 of the Code including, but not necessarily limited to, removal from employment and/or appointed position.

The Financial Disclosure Statement describes all interests, transactions and matters required to be disclosed by the Ethics Law throughout the annual reporting period. Financial Disclosure is required so that any conflicts of interest that might impact on the conduct of County business are identified and addressed before problems arise. Disclosure statements are made available to the public.

If at any time you may have a question about a conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest, or acceptance of a gift, you may request an advisory opinion from the Charles County Ethics Commission. Submit your written request to the Charles County Ethics Commission, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD 20646 or via email to ethicscommission@charlescounty.org.

If you have any questions regarding the financial form please do not hesitate to contact Melody Weschler, Clerk to the Ethics Commission at 301-645-0555 or email at weschlem@charlescountymd.gov.

Sincerely,
Charles Count Ethics Commission

200 Baltimore Street
LA PLATA, MARYLAND 20646
(301) 645-0555 OR Metro 870-2260
TDD 1-800-735-2258 or 7-1-1; FAX: (301) 645-0515

CHARLES COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

c/o Office of the County Attorney
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, Maryland 20646
301-645-0555

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT – Form 2

Qualifying Employees & Appointed Members of Boards and Commissions, other than those required by
Financial Disclosure Statement – Form 1

INSTRUCTIONS

This statement of 8 pages plus this cover sheet includes all interests and related matters required to be disclosed pursuant to Chapter 170 of the Charles County Code, the Ethics Law, for the calendar year 2019 pertaining to the person filing the statement. The statement consists of this cover sheet together with Schedules A - E. **The Statement must be completely filled out before it will be accepted. Failure to file, or to file a fully completed statement, constitutes a violation of Title 10 of the Ethics Law.**

- If a section does not apply to you please indicate by marking N/A.
- Please type or print **legibly**, or the form will not be accepted

**WHEN COMPLETE PLEASE RETURN THE ORIGINAL SIGNED FORM TO:
MELODY WESCHLER, CLERK, CHARLES COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION
200 BALTIMORE STREET, LA PLATA, MD 20646**

DEFINITIONS

“Attributable interest” means having direct or indirect control over a property or business interest held or owned by a family member or legal entity.

“Business entity” means a corporation, general or limited partnership, sole proprietorship, joint venture unincorporated association or firm, institution, trust, Foundation, or other organization, whether or not operated for profit. Business entity does not include a governmental entity.

“Commission” means the Charles County Ethics Commission established under §170.04(a) of this County Code.

“Compensation” means any money or thing of value, regardless of form, received or to be received by any individual covered by this chapter from an employer for service rendered. For the purposes of §170.08 of the County Code, if lobbying is only a portion of a person's employment, **“compensation”** means a prorated amount based on the time devoted to lobbying compared to the time devoted to other employment duties.

“County” means Charles County, Maryland.

“Doing Business With” means:

- (1) having or negotiating a contract that involves the commitment, either in a single or combination of transactions, of \$5,000 or more of county government controlled funds; (2) being regulated by or otherwise subject to the authority of the county; or
- (3) being registered as a lobbyist under §170.08 of the County Code.

“Elected Official” means any individual who holds an elective office of Charles County. “Elected official” does not include the sheriff, state’s attorney, register of wills, or clerk of the court.

“Employee” means an individual who is employed by the county. **“Employee”** does not include an elected local official.

“Employee” does not include an employee of:

- (a) the offices of the sheriff, state’s attorney, register of wills, or clerk of the court;
- (b) the county health department; or
- (c) the county department of social services.

“Financial Interest” means:

- (1) ownership of any interest as the result of which the owner has received, within the past 3 years, or is presently receiving, or in the future is entitled to receive, more than \$1,000 per year; or
- (2) ownership, or the ownership of securities of any kind representing or convertible into ownership, of more than 3 percent of a business entity by a county official or employee, or the spouse of an official or employee.

“Gift” means the transfer of anything of economic value, regardless of the form, without adequate and lawful consideration. **“Gift”** does not include a political campaign contribution regulated under election law article, annotated code of Maryland, or any other provision of state or local law regulating the conduct of elections or the receipt of political campaign contributions.

“Immediate Family” means a spouse and dependent children.

“Interest” means a legal or equitable economic interest, whether or not subject to an encumbrance or a condition, that is owned or held, in whole or in part, jointly or severally, directly or indirectly. For purposes of §170.06 of the County Code, **“interest”** includes any interest held at any time during the reporting period.

“Interest” does not include:

- (a) an interest held in the capacity of a personal agent, custodian, fiduciary, personal representative, or trustee, unless the holder has an equitable interest in the subject matter;
- (b) an interest in a time or demand deposit in a financial institution;
- (c) an interest in an insurance policy, endowment policy, or annuity contract under which an insurer promises to pay a fixed amount of money either in a lump sum or periodically for life or a specified period;
- (d) a common trust fund or a trust which forms part of a pension or profit sharing plan which has more than 25 participants and which has been determined by the internal revenue service to be a qualified trust under the internal revenue code; or
- (e) a college savings plan under the internal revenue code.

“Official” means an elected official, an employee of the county government, or a person appointed to or employed by the county or any county agency, board, commission, or similar entity: (1) whether or not paid in whole or in part with county government funds; and (2) whether or not compensated.

“Person” includes an individual or business entity.

“Qualified Relative” means a spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister.

CHARLES COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT – Form 2

Regular Reporting Period: January 1 through December 31, 2019

(or, if filing as a candidate in a year prior to the election year, the period ending as of signature date)

(Note: Please type or print **legibly**, or the form will not be accepted)

PART I. Identifying Information

First Name	Initial	Last Name
Mailing Address (work or home) (Home address will not be disclosed to the public.)		
Telephone Number (work or home)	Alternate Number (work or cell)	
Current Position, Office or Board/Commission Held With Charles County:		

Privacy Notice

The Charles County Ethics Law (Ch. 170 of the Charles County Code) requires collection of this information, which will be used primarily for public disclosure and to determine compliance with the Charles County Code. The information may be presented for review or for copying, at public expenses, upon request to any person, including officials of State, local, or Federal government, who, upon presenting proof identification, registers their name and address, along with the name of the person whose statement is being reviewed. The subject has the right to review, correct, and amend the record, and the right to know who has reviewed their disclosure statement.

Standards of Conduct

The Charles County Public Ethics Law (Ch. 170 of the Charles County Code) includes standards of conduct applicable to all financial disclosure filers including employees and elected appointed officials. The standards address disqualification from participation, prohibited secondary employment, prohibited ownership interest, misuse of position, prohibited solicitations and acceptance of gifts, misuse of confidential information, post-employment limitations, prohibited dealing with the County, procurement specifications assistance restriction, and other matters. The law provides for exceptions and exemptions under certain circumstances. If you have any questions about the application of the law, please contact the County Ethics Commission.

Enforcement Provisions

Failure to file or report information required by Ch. 170.10 of the Charles County Code by due date could subject filer to administrative penalties of up to \$250 and other disciplinary action per Ch. 170.10.2, including a civil fine of up to \$5,000 per day by the Circuit Court of Charles County, or any other court having proper venue for the purpose of enforcing compliance. Willful and false filing is subject to penalty for perjury pursuant to Ch. 170.10.2(c).

PART II. SIGNATURE AND AFFIRMATION

This Financial Disclosure Statement describes all interests and related transactions and matters required to be disclosed by the Charles County Ethics Law, with respect to the period indicated, and pertaining to me.

I have thoroughly reviewed Schedules A through E of this Financial Disclosure Statement and the instructions, and hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the contents of this Financial Disclosure Statement are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Person Filing

Date:

YOUR NAME: _____ REPORTING YEAR: 2019

You must check either "Yes" or "No" to the initial questions in Schedules A & C. If "Yes" provide further detail. Also, you must answer all questions in Schedule B. Please print legibly. Incomplete forms will be returned to you.

SCHEDULE A

Ownership of financial interest in, or liabilities to, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, sole proprietorships, or other business entities.

To your knowledge, during the reporting period, did you or a qualified relative have a financial interest of greater than 3 percent in, or annual income of more than \$1,000* from, or a financial obligation** to, a business entity (corporation, partnership, limited liability company (LLC), limited liability partnership (LLP), sole proprietorship, other) that:

***Qualified Relative means your spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister.*

- A. Was regulated, licensed by, or doing business with, your department, board, or commission; **OR**
- B. Had, or was negotiating, a contract of at least \$5,000 with the County or with your department, board, or commission.

**in the current year, three prior years, or entitled to in a future year*

*** excluding consumer credit accounts, e.g. "credit cards"*

- Yes No (Go to Schedule B)

If Yes, answer each question below. (A separate Schedule "A" will be required for each interest you need to disclose, or you may attach a summary sheet.) If No, go to Schedule B.

1. State the name, the type of entity, and principal place of business of the entity where interest or debt* was held: (*You need not report retail credit accounts.)

Name/Type Entity: _____

Principal Place of Business: _____

2. Name of Person Holding Interest: _____

Relationship to Filer: _____

3. If a liability or other debt (excluding retail credit account), indicate any collateral or other security held by creditor: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

REPORTING YEAR: 2019

4. If a non-publicly traded corporation, partnership, limited liability company (LLC), limited liability partnership (LLP), sole proprietorship or other business entity, indicate the range of value of the interest held (or if a liability, the amount owed):

- Under \$1,000 \$1,000 to \$9,999 \$10,000 to \$24,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 and over

OR, if the dollar value of the interest held is not reasonably estimable, then state the percentage of ownership held in the entity:

Percentage of Ownership: _____ %

5. If in a publicly traded entity, indicate either the number of shares or the range of the value of the interest:

Number of Shares: _____ **OR**

Value of Shares

- Under \$1,000 \$1,000 to \$9,999 \$10,000 to \$24,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 and over

6. Did you transfer all or part of your holdings during the reporting period? Yes No

If Yes:

6a. What portion of the interest was transferred? _____

6b. Date (Month/Year the interest was transferred): _____

YOUR NAME: _____

REPORTING YEAR: 2019

SCHEDULE B

Employment, Officers, Directorships, or Similar Interests

***Qualified Relative means your spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister.*

Please list below:

- 1. Your employer (whether or not regulated by or doing business with the County or your department, board or commission) including any secondary employment or business. Please print or type legibly.

- 2. To your knowledge, whether you or a qualified relative is employed by, or has an interest in, or is an officer, director, or trustee in, or is negotiating a contract or prospective employment with, an entity that has or is negotiating a contract of at least \$5,000 with the County, or was regulated by your department, agency, board or commission.

No, none of these apply to me.

Yes, one or more of these apply to me. Complete information below. (Please print additional Schedule B's if necessary or you may attach a summary sheet.)

A. Name of Person holding position: _____

B. Relationship to Filer: _____

C. Title of position: _____

- 3. Any other immediate family member (spouse, child) employed by Charles County.

No, none of these apply to me. (Go to Schedule C)

Yes, one or more of these apply to me. Complete information below. (Please print additional Schedule B's if necessary or you may attach a summary sheet.)

A. Name of Person holding position: _____

B. Relationship to Filer: _____

C. Title of position: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ REPORTING YEAR: 2019

SCHEDULE C

During the reporting period, were you or your spouse engaged as a regulated lobbyist?
Please print/type legibly.

Self:

No Yes

If yes:

Entity in which you are engaged as a lobbyist: _____

Spouse:

No Yes

If yes:

Entity in which your spouse is engaged as a lobbyist: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ REPORTING YEAR: 2019

SCHEDULE D

Gifts

Answer each question below. A separate Schedule D will be required for each gift, or you may attach a summary worksheet.

To your knowledge, did you, or someone on your behalf, receive any gift(s), in excess of a value of \$20 or a series of gifts from the same donor with a cumulative value of \$100 or more, from or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, a person or entity who does business with, or is regulated by, the County or your department, board, or commission, or who is registered or required to register before the County under the lobbying section of the Charles County Code?

Please print legibly.

No (Go to Schedule E) Yes **If Yes:**

1. Who gave you the gift(s)? _____
2. On what date was the gift(s) given? _____
3. What was the nature of the gift(s)? (Ex. Cash, restaurant meal, event tickets, membership or subscription, etc.)

4. What was the value of the gift(s)? _____
5. If the gift was given to someone else on your behalf, list the identity of the gift recipient.

