



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert C. Bickford, *Chair*
Kathleen F. Delamere, *Vice Chair* Paul Eldridge, *Secretary*
Gregory Amato, *Member* Roderick Cassidy, *Member*

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pursuant to §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law

Under §55-22 of the Putnam County Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law, Chapter 55 of the Code of Putnam County, the Board of Ethics is required to submit, prior to March 15 of each year, a report to the County Executive and the Legislature of the Board's activities in the preceding year.

The Board consists of five members. Kathleen Delamere was reappointed to a three year term via Resolution #121 of 2018, such term to expire December 31, 2020. The Board re-elected Robert Bickford as Chair and elected Kathleen Delamere as Vice Chair and Paul Eldridge as Secretary.

During 2018, the Board of Ethics met five times. All meetings of the Board are open to the public (except for executive sessions to review **annual** disclosure statements and consider complaints and requests for advisory opinions).

- The Board received an inquiry as to the applicability of the Code of Ethics to a County officer who is a member of one County policy board who also sat on another County board at the same time. The Board decided that there is no prohibition in the County Code of Ethics or perceived ethical issue with this situation.
- The Board reviewed the current "Rules of the Putnam County Board of Ethics" to determine if any procedural issues need to be addressed. The review found the Rules to be in good order.
- In July the Board was advised that the Legislature will not reappoint or confirm any County Board member who fails to timely file a required Financial Disclosure statement. The Board subsequently included this information in all reminder notices to officers who had yet to file their disclosure statements and in all subsequent notices
- The Board received an inquiry from the County Historian whether accepting an appointment to a local Town Historical Society Board would create the perception of a conflict. The Board determined that since the Society is chartered by the State Education Department and is not subject to supervision or oversight by the County Historian, there would not be a conflict.
- In November the Board received an inquiry whether there is a conflict of interest in hiring a person for a regulatory position of enforcement when that person has a relative working in a regulated industry overseen by that regulator. The Board concluded that, given there are other

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personnel who could oversee the relative's job performance, there would be no conflict of interest, but the regulator should not participate in any such oversight.

Annual Financial Disclosure Statements

Under the Code of Ethics, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to review the annual financial disclosure statements filed by County officers and employees. The review is to assure that the filed forms are complete and responsive on their face to the requirements of the law. The Board's review is done in executive session.

The electronic submission of these statements has been a major improvement for most filers. It is a faster process, eliminates a lot of paper, and provides the filer with an immediate copy of their submission.

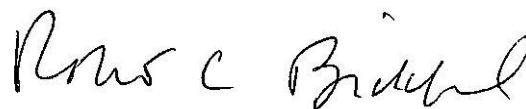
The following is the record of Financial Disclosure Forms reviewed and accepted during 2018:

February	Accepted	65 forms
April	Accepted	37 forms
June	Accepted	80 forms
September	Accepted	23 forms
December	Accepted	13 forms

Thirteen other forms were submitted and returned to sender for correction or more information, but not responded to by the end of the year.

In addition, 44 officers did not file at all; they are listed on the attachment.

Dated: February 28, 2019



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
Robert Bickford, Chair
Kathleen Delamere, Vice Chair
Paul Eldridge, Secretary

Attachment

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