



State's Ethics Committee Structure

Alabama - [Link](#)

- State Ethics Commission
 - 5 members
 - May not consist of an elected public official, candidate, lobbyist, or former commission employee.
 - May only serve one term.
 - Each of the follow appoints one member:
 - The Governor
 - The Lieutenant Governor
 - Presiding officer of the Senate
 - Speaker of the House of Representatives
 - Members confirmed by the Senate.
 - The commission reports yearly to the Legislature and the Governor about activities.
 - Commission members receive \$50 per day, and travel reimbursement.
 - No officer or employee of the commission may engage in partisan political activity.
 - “The commission shall appoint a full-time director.” – AL Unofficial Restated Ethics Act
 - Duties
 - Maintain a system for filing required statements.
 - Issue ethics guidelines.
 - Make reports and statements available for public inspection.
 - Investigate allegations of ethical violations.
 - “Report suspected violations of law to the appropriate law-enforcement authorities.” – AL Unofficial Restated Ethics Act
 - Issue advisory opinions
 - Administer ethics education
 - Complaints are kept confidential.
 - The commission may not take action on a complaint if the complainant remains anonymous.
 - The commission must notify a person 45 days before a hearing if a complaint has been filed against them.
 - The commission may subpoena witnesses and evidence.
 - Law requires the commission to use an electronic filing system.

Alaska [Link](#)

- Public Offices Commission
- Structure:
 - Consists of 5 commissioners.
 - Appointed by the Governor.
 - Confirmed by a majority of the legislature meeting in joint session.
- Alaska Legislative Ethics Committee [Link](#)
- Structure:

- Consists of 9 commissioners.
- Two members of each body are appointed by the president of the senate and speaker of the house, respectively.
- Five public members are selected by the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.
- All appointments ratified by two-thirds of the full membership of each chamber.
- No more than one public member may be a former legislator.
- No more than two public members of the committee may be members of the same political party.
- Members may not be a legislator, or legislative employee.
- Members may not be an officer of a political party, a candidate for political office, or a registered lobbyist.

Arizona [Link](#)

- Ethics Committee
- Structure & Powers [Link](#)
 - An ethics committee is established in the Senate and an ethics committee is established in the House of Representatives, each consisting of five members.
 - The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint to the ethics committee of their respective house five members, not more than three of whom may be from the same political party
 - Each ethics committee shall propose, and each house of the legislature shall adopt, a code of ethics and conflict of interest requirements as part of the rules of the respective house in the same manner as other rules are adopted.

Each ethics committee shall investigate complaints and charges against members of its house and, if necessary, report the results of the investigation to its house with recommendations for further action.

California [Link](#)

- Structure [Link](#)
 - Five divisions: enforcement, legal, technical assistance, administration, and executive.
 - The Enforcement Division investigates and prosecutes violations of the Political Reform Act.
 - The Legal Division acts as legal counsel for the FPPC, drafts regulations, interprets the Act's provisions, represents the FPPC in litigation, and provides telephone and written advice to the public.
 - The Technical Assistance Division political reform consultants offer assistance with questions or problems concerning all areas of the Act.
 - The Administration Division manages the FPPC budget, business services, accounting, data processing, office systems, personnel and special projects.
 - The executive division is comprised of the Chairman, who serves as the senior manager of the organization. The Commission Chairman is appointed to a single four-year term by the Governor, and the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Commission.

Colorado [Link](#)

- Independent Ethics Commission [Link](#)
- Structure [Link](#)
 - Consists of five volunteer members
 - Appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court respectively.
 - The appointees of the House Speaker and the Senate President must be approved by two-thirds vote of their respective chambers.

- The fifth member must be a local government employee or elected official, and is appointed by the other four Commissioners.
 - Commissioners serve staggered four-year terms
- Commissioners may serve multiple terms

Connecticut - [Link](#)

- Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board- Office of Government Accountability
 - Consists of an Executive Director, general counsel, ethics enforcement officer, and other staff deemed necessary
 - Board consists of nine members
 - One appointed by the speaker of the House
 - One appointed by the Senate pro tempore
 - One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate
 - One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate
 - One appointed by the majority leader of the House
 - One appointed by the minority leader of the House
 - Three appointed by the Governor
 - Members serve four-year terms
 - No member can have held public office, been a candidate within the last three years
 - No member can be an officer of any political party or committee
 - Board members are compensated \$200 for each day they attend a committee meeting
 - No member of the board may make any contribution
 - Board members shall recuse themselves from participating in a proceeding involving the person who appointed them
 - Board duties include the following:
 - Maintaining a database of all reports
 - Respond to inquiries regarding the code of ethics
 - Provide yearly training to all state employees on the code of ethics
 - Maintains a summary of state ethics laws concerning persons, firms, and corporations submitting bids for state contracts
 - Ethics complaints must be submitted in writing and be signed under penalty of false statement
 - Office of State Ethics may subpoena witnesses
 - There must be proof of probable cause in order to rule that a public official or state employee has violated the code of ethics
 - Complaints and investigations are kept confidential
 - The board holds a conference every other year on ethical issues affecting members of the General Assembly and lobbyists
 - The Office of State Ethics compiles quarterly and annual summaries of reports filed with them
 - Board decisions can be appealed

Delaware - [Link](#)

- Public Integrity Commission
 - Seven members are appointed by the Governor.
 - No more than 4 from the same political party.
 - No member may be an elected or appointed official of any government.
 - No member may be an officer of a political party.
 - 7 year terms

- Governor may remove with concurrence of the Senate.
- Commission counsel to assist the commission in day-to-day activities
- Powers and duties
 - Issue advisory opinions
 - Investigate violations and take disciplinary action
 - Report substantial evidence of violations to appropriate authorities
 - Ethics education
 - Prepare annual reports describing activities
 - Implement financial disclosure requirements

Georgia - [Link](#)

- Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission
 - 5 members
 - 3 appointed by the Governor (no more than two from the same party)
 - One appointed by the Senate Committee of Assignments
 - One appointed by the Speaker of the House
 - Four year terms of office
 - “The commission shall elect a chairperson, and vice chairperson, and other officers it deems necessary.” – Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act
 - Powers and duties:
 - Work with other departments, agencies, and organizations in order to implement the Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act
 - Subpoena witnesses
 - Prosecute actions in court
 - Publish recommendations and studies for compliance with ethics law
 - Develop a filing system for disclosure forms
 - Make investigations in to allegations of ethics violation and report violations to appropriate law enforcement
 - May enforce a civil penalty up to \$25,000 in some cases.
 - Make an annual report to the General Assembly and Governor on activities.
 - The Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting violations of ethics law.
 - Complaints must be submitted in writing and under oath.

Hawaii

- Hawaii State Ethics Commission [Link](#)
- Structure
 - Five members are appointed by the governor from a panel of ten persons nominated by the judicial council.
 - Each member shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State.
 - Members of the commission shall hold no other public office.
 - Each member shall serve a four year term.
 - Members of the commission can not serve more than two consecutive terms.
 - The governor may remove or suspend any member of the commission upon the filing of a written finding with the commission.
 - Member of the commission serve without compensation but are reimbursed for expenses incurred for their duties.

Illinois [Link](#)

- Legislative Ethics Commission
- Structure
 - Consists of 8 commissioners

- 2 appointed by the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Iowa

- Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board [Link](#)
- Structure [Link](#) [Link](#)
 - Consists of 6 commissioners.
 - All are appointed by the Governor.
 - Commissioners serve 6-year staggered terms.
 - They are subject to Iowa Senate confirmation.

The commission is balanced by political affiliation.

Kansas [Link](#)

- Public Disclosure Commission [Link](#)
- Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission [Link](#)
- Structure [Link](#)
 - Consists of 9 members.

Two members are appointed by the governor, one by the president of the senate, one by the speaker of the house, one by the minority leader of the house, one by the minority leader of the senate, one by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, one by the attorney general, and one by the secretary of the senate.

Louisiana - [Link](#)

- Board of Ethics
 - Eleven members
 - 7 appointed by the Governor
 - 2 elected by the Senate
 - 2 elected by the House of Representatives
 - Five year terms – two term limit
 - Duties
 - Issue advisory opinions.
 - Conduct investigations of allegations of ethics violations.
 - Establish a date management system.
 - Ethics education.
 - Investigations are considered confidential.
 - All public servants must receive at least one hour of ethics education training per year.
 - Newly elected officials must receive ethics training within 90 days of taking the oath of office.

Maine

- Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices
 - Appointed leaders from each political party in both the House and Senate each submit three candidates for the commission, and the House and Senate leadership also submit three candidates to the Governor for review. The Governor appoints four members to the commission, no more than two from each party.
 - Meets once per month unless a complaint is filed
 - Can investigate candidates to determine facts concerning registration
 - May subpoena witnesses
 - A person may apply in writing to request an investigation
 - The State Auditor shall assist the commission as requested
 - Working papers of the commission are confidential and may not be disclosed

- The Attorney General shall assist the commission as requested and carry out prosecutions for the commission
 - Commission members yearly disclose positions held in PACs, party committees, non-profit or commercial organizations, or expenditures over \$1500 to campaigns or lobbyists made by either the member or their domestic partner
 - Any complaints or ongoing investigations are kept confidential
- Maintain a docket of registered lobbyists

Maryland - [Link](#)

- Joint Ethics Committee
 - Has jurisdiction over state officials and all Executive, Legislative, and Judicial employees (excluding judges).
 - ... Has jurisdiction over elected members of the general assembly.
 - Has five members appointed by the Governor:
 - Three with the advice and consent of the Senate (at least one has to be of a different political party than the Governor)
 - One nominated by the President of the Senate
 - One nominated by the Speaker of the House
 - Five year terms
 - No more than two consecutive terms
 - May be removed by the Governor for neglect, misconduct, or disability.
 - Committee members may not:
 - Hold public office
 - Hold a position in a political party
 - Be a lobbyist
 - Committee members are reimbursed for expenses and compensated as the state budget allows.
 - Committee appoints an executive director and other staff needed for day-to-day operations.
 - Duties include:
 - Administer ethics laws and disclosure procedures
 - Review and retain records of documents filed
 - Review adequacy of public ethics laws
 - Education on ethics laws
 - Annual compilation of a list of businesses contracting with the state
 - Annual report on activities and investigations to the general assembly
 - Issuing advisory opinions
 - Has the power to subpoena
 - Complaints and ongoing investigations are kept confidential
 - Appeals process through judicial review

The Ethics Commission does not prosecute, but refers cases to an appropriate prosecuting authority.

Michigan - [Link](#)

- Board of ethics
 - Executive office board of ethics
 - “The function of the board shall be advisory and investigatory and board is not empowered to take direct action against any person or agency.” – MI Ethics Act
 - 7 members appointed by the governor with advice and consent of the Senate.
 - No more than 4 of the same party.

- Four year terms of office.
 - “The attorney general and the state personnel director shall serve ex officio without the right to vote.” – MI State Ethics Act
- Powers and duties:
 - Receive complaints and make recommendations to appropriate authorities.
 - Initiate investigations of questionable practices.
 - Hold public hearings.
 - Administer oaths and receive sworn testimony.

Issue advisory opinions

Mississippi

- Mississippi Ethics Commission - [Link](#)
 - Composed of 8 members
 - Two appointed by Governor.
 - Two appointed by Lieutenant Governor.
 - Two appointed by Speaker of the House.
 - Two appointed by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

One from each may be an elected official.

Nevada [Link](#)

- Commission on Ethics [Link](#)
- Structure [Link](#)
 - Consists of 8 members
 - Four residents of the State appointed by the Legislative Commission, at least two of whom must be former public officers or public employees, and at least one of whom must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this State.
 - Four residents of the State appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom must be former public officers or public employees, and at least one of whom must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this State.
 - Not more than four members of the Commission may be members of the same political party.
 - Not more than four members may be residents of the same county.

New Hampshire

- Executive Branch Ethics Committee - Established in 2006 to issue guidelines, interpretive rulings, and advisory opinions relative to standards for ethical conduct in the executive branch and to resolve issues, questions, or complaints involving executive branch officials who are not classified State employees. [Link](#)
 - Consists of 7 members
 - 3 nominated by the Governor - One Democrat, one Republican, and one independent.
 - 2 nominated by Secretary of State - One Democrat, and one Republican
 - 2 nominated by Treasurer - One Democrat, and one Republican
 - All nominations confirmed by Governor and executive council
 - Members serve 3 year terms and receive no compensation
 - Issues guidelines consistent with the executive branch code of ethics
 - Issues interpretive rulings
 - Renders advisory opinions

Investigates unauthorized disclosure of information

New York - [Link](#)

- Joint commission on public ethics - [Link](#)
 - 14 members
 - Three appointed by speaker of the house
 - Three appointed by senate pro tem.
 - One appointed by house minority leader
 - One appointed by senate minority leader
 - Six appointed by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor
 - Five year terms

Governor designates the chairman of the commission

North Carolina

- North Carolina Ethics Commission - [Link](#)
 - 8 members
 - 4 appointed by the Governor (no more than two from the same party)
 - 4 appointed by general assembly
 - 2 nominated by Speaker of the House (must be from different parties)
 - 2 nominated by President Pro Tempore (must be from different parties)

Members serve 4 year terms

Ohio - [Link](#)

- Ohio ethics commission
 - Consists of 6 members
 - 3 are members of each of the two major political parties.
 - Appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.
 - No commission member may be a legislative agent or lobbyist.
 - Members are paid \$75 per diem.
 - Commission appoints its own chair and vice-chair.
 - The commission may appoint an executive director and staff to carry out the duties of the commission.
 - The appropriate ethics commission investigates complaints. Investigation proceedings are confidential.
 - “If the Ohio ethics commission reports its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority” – Ohio Ethics law
 - The commission will give an annual report to government leaders on activities.

Oklahoma [Link](#)

- Oklahoma Ethics Commission [Link](#)
- Structure
 - Made of five members
 - The Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall each appoint a person who is a registered voter of this State to the Commission.
 - The initial terms of the Governor’s and Attorney General’s appointees are one year.
 - The initial terms of the President Pro Tempore's and Speaker's appointees are three years.
 - The initial term of the Chief Justice's appointee is five years.
 - No more than one commissioner can represent a congressional district
 - No more than three members of the same political party can serve at the same time.

- After the initial terms, members of the Ethics Commission shall serve terms of five years.
- No person shall be appointed to the Commission more than two times in succession, (except the initial members who serve less than five year terms may be appointed three times in succession.)
- A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the appointing author.

No member of the commission shall be eligible for elected office for two years after completing his or her term.

Oregon [Link](#)

- Structure
 - Consists of 7 volunteer members
 - Four members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Oregon House and Senate.
 - The Governor selects three members directly.
 - No more than four of the members may be from the same political party.
 - The law allows members to serve only one four-year term.
 - The OGEC is administered by an executive director selected by the commissioners.

The commission also employs two investigators, two trainers, a program analyst, and two office support staff who are appointed by the executive director.

Pennsylvania

- State Ethics Commission
 - Powers and Duties - [Link](#)
 - Rendering advisory opinions
 - Administering Statement of Financial Interest forms
 - Preserving statements and reports for a period of 5 years
 - Investigating alleged violations of the Ethics Act
 - Publishing an annual report
 - Prescribing rules and regulations to implement provisions of the Ethics Act

Rhode Island [Link](#)

- State Ethics Commission
 - “The ethics commission shall have the authority to investigate violations of the code of ethics and to impose penalties, as provided by law; and the commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not subject to impeachment.” – RI constitution
 - “All elected and appointed officials and employees of state and local government, of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics.” – RI constitution
 - All commission records, other than those relating to ongoing investigations or complaints, shall be open to public inspection.
 - Consists of nine state citizens
 - Four appointed by the Governor
 - Five appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by the following:
 - House Minority leader
 - House Majority leader
 - Senate Minority leader
 - Senate Majority leader
 - Speaker of the House

- No Commission Member may serve more than one full five-year term.
- Members may not hold public office, hold office in any political party, or participate or contribute to a political campaign.

Commission members receive \$100 per day in compensation

South Carolina

- State Ethics Committee - [Link](#)
 - 9 members appointed by governor with consent from the General Assembly
 - One representing each congressional districts (6 of them)
 - Three representing the state at large
 - 5 year terms
 - “The commission shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and such other officers as it considers necessary.” – NC Laws to initiate or receive complaints

Tennessee - [Link](#)

- Tennessee ethics Commission
 - 6 members
 - At least one female
 - At least one must be African-American
 - All members must be at least 30
 - No member may be a convicted felon

No member may have a family member who is holds public office

Texas [Link](#)

- Texas Ethics Commission [Link](#)
- Structure [Link](#)
 - Consists of 8 members.
 - Can not be a member if a person is required to register as a lobbyist.
 - Members are appointed by the Governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
 - Two members of different political parties are appointed by the governor from a list of 10 names submitted by the House of Representatives after a primary.
 - Two members of different political parties are appointed by the governor from a list of 10 names submitted by the Senate after a primary.
 - Two members of different political parties are appointed by the speaker of the house from a list of 10 names submitted by the members from each political party of the House of Representatives after a primary.
 - Two members of different political parties are appointed by the lieutenant governor from a list of 10 names submitted by members of each political party in the Senate after a primary.
 - A term length of four years.
 - Two term limit

Utah [Link](#)

- Ethics Committee [Link](#)
 - Structure
 - There is established a Senate Ethics Committee and a House Ethics Committee.
 - Senate Ethics Committee
 - The chair and three additional Senators are appointed by the President of the Senate; the vice chair and three additional Senators appointed by the Senate minority leader.

- House Ethics Committee
 - The chair and three additional Representatives are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the vice chair and three additional Representatives appointed by the House minority leader.
- A committee member shall serve a two-year term.
- Independent Legislative Ethics Commission [Link](#)
 - Structure
 - Composed of five persons.
 - Two members, who have served, but no longer serve, as judges of a court of record in this state.
 - Nominated by the mutual consent of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, and appointed by a majority vote of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader.
 - One member, who has served, but no longer serves, as a judge of a court of record in this state.
 - Nominated by the mutual consent of the Senate minority leader and the House minority leader, and appointed by a majority vote of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader.
 - One member, who has served as a member of the Legislature in this state no more recently than four years before the date of appointment.
 - Appointed by the mutual consent of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - One member, who has served as a member of the Legislature in this state no more recently than four years before the date of appointment.
 - Appointed by the mutual consent of the Senate minority leader and House minority leader.

Virginia

- Senate advisory panel - [Link](#)
 - Composed of five non-legislative citizen members
 - Three former members of the Senate
 - Two members of the Commonwealth
 - Nominated by Committee on Rules and confirmed by the Senate
 - 4 year terms – no more than 3 consecutive terms
 - Bipartisan representation
- House advisory panel - [Link](#)
 - Composed of five non-legislative citizen members
 - One retired judge
 - Two former members of the House
 - Two members of the Commonwealth
 - Nominated by the Speaker of the House and confirmed by the House
 - 4 year terms – no more than 3 consecutive terms
 - Bipartisan representation

Washington

- Executive Ethics Board
- Washington Public Disclosure Commission
- Washington State Legislative Ethics Board [Link](#)
 - Structure [Link](#)
 - Consists of 9 members
 - One legislator from each caucus in the house (2) and the senate (2).

- One citizen member nominated by each caucus and appointed by the governor.
- One citizen member selected by three of the four appointed citizen members.
- Citizen members may only serve one five year term.