

January 2026

CODE OF ETHICS  
AND  
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT  
FOR MEMBERS OF  
THE GOOCHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Recognizing that persons who hold public office have been given a public trust and that the stewardship of that office demands the highest levels of ethical and moral conduct, any person serving on the Goochland County Board of Supervisors should adhere to this Code of Ethics.

Recognizing that persons holding a position of public trust are under constant observation by the media and interested county residents, and recognizing that maintaining the integrity and dignity of the public office is essential for maintaining high levels of public confidence in our institutions of government, any person serving on the Goochland County Board of Supervisors should adhere to these Standards of Conduct.

However, Board members retain their civil rights as citizens, including their rights to express opinions about and support for policies, organizations, and political parties, candidates, and campaigns. Disagreement with a Board member's policy or political positions does not constitute a violation of the standards stated in this document.

CODE OF ETHICS

Every member of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors should adhere to this Code of Ethics:

1. Uphold the Constitution, laws and regulations of the United States and Virginia and never knowingly be a party to their evasion.
2. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to the county as a whole above loyalty to individuals, districts, or particular groups.
3. Give a full measure of effort and service to the position of trust for which stewardship has been granted; give earnest effort and best thought to the performance of duties.
4. Seek to find and use the most equitable, efficient, effective, and economical means for getting tasks accomplished.
5. Adopt policies and programs that support the rights of Goochland County citizens and do not tolerate discrimination.
6. Ensure the integrity of the actions of the Board of Supervisors by avoiding discrimination through the dispensing of special favors or unfair privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not. A member should never accept for himself or herself or for family members, any gifts, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of governmental duties. In addition, each member shall comply with all applicable provisions of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, including

those provisions that regulate the solicitation and acceptance of gifts, money or other things of value for services performed within the scope of the member's official duties.

7. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of any office, since a public servant has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
8. Engage in no business with the county government, or the school system, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of government duties except as may be consistent with the conflict of interests statutes in the Virginia Code.
9. Never use any information gained confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.
10. Expose through appropriate means and channels, corruption, misconduct, or neglect of duty whenever discovered.
11. Adhere to the principle that the public's business should be conducted in the public view by observing and following the letter and spirit of the Freedom of Information Act using closed meetings only to deal with sensitive personnel, legal matters, contractual matters or as otherwise provided by the Code of Virginia.
12. Avoid using the position of public trust to gain access to the media for the purposes of criticizing colleagues, citizens or personnel, impugning their integrity or vilifying their personal beliefs.
13. Make sure, when responding to the media, that a clear distinction is made between personal opinion or belief and a decision made by the Board.
14. If requested by any member of the Board of Supervisors, review orally and in public session at the annual organizational meeting each of these principles. -
15. Pledge to honor and uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Every member of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors should adhere to these Standards of Conduct:

1. In responding to questions, from the media or citizens, Board members should remind the listener that they are not speaking for the entire Board, clarify their position on a particular item, and make "no public comment" on closed meeting matters in reference to individuals, real estate, and other areas addressed pursuant to Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711.
2. Remember that personnel matters are to remain confidential and that it is the obligation of the Board and its membership to protect the privacy of the individual.
3. Focus on issues and avoid making public comments about individuals, staff members, fellow Board members, community residents or media representatives.

4. Under the Freedom of Information Act, Board members are discouraged from communicating to all Board members through one email. However, when sending emails on matters of public business before the Board, Board members are encouraged to send them to all Board members through separate emails.
5. Although the flow of information and number of communications can at times be overwhelming, Board members are encouraged to advise their colleagues before releasing information to the public.
6. Avoid during public meetings and during the performance of public duties the use of abusive, threatening or intimidating language or gestures directed at colleagues, citizens, or personnel.
7. Pay all taxes due to the county, state, or national government.
8. Attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board or committees to which he or she has been assigned, resigning whenever personal circumstances preclude regular attendance.
9. Avoid a private lifestyle that casts public doubt upon the integrity and competence of the county government.
10. Make a conscientious effort to be well prepared for each meeting.
11. Offer criticism of colleagues or county employees only in private meetings with appropriate individuals or in closed meeting.
12. Work to create a positive environment in public meetings where citizens will feel comfortable in their roles as observers or participants.
13. Maintain an attitude of courtesy and consideration toward all colleagues and staff during all discussions and deliberations.
14. Be tolerant. Allow citizens, employees, or colleagues sufficient opportunity to present their views.
15. Be respectful and attentive. Avoid comments, body language or distracting activity that conveys a message of disrespect for the presentations from citizens, personnel or colleagues.
16. Be concise. Avoid the practice of taking more time to address an issue before the body than is necessary and essential for an adequate consideration of those matters being discussed.

This Goochland County Code of Ethics expresses standards of ethical conduct expected of members of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors. Members themselves have the primary responsibility to assure that ethical standards are understood and met, and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of government. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors has the additional responsibility to intervene when actions of members that appear to be in violation of the Code of Ethics are brought to their attention.

The Board of Supervisors may impose sanctions on members whose conduct does not comply with the County's ethical standards, such as public or private reprimand, formal censure, loss of seniority or committee assignment, or budget restriction. Where allowed by law, the Board of Supervisors also may remove members of Board-appointed boards, committees, and commissions from office.

A violation of this Code of Ethics shall not be considered a basis for challenging the validity of a Board of Supervisors' decision, nor provide a basis for any private right of action.

Adopted	March 7, 2000
Amended	January 6, 2009
Amended	January 13, 2009
Amended	January 5, 2010
Amended	January 4, 2011
Amended	January 3, 2012
Adopted	January 2, 2013
Adopted	January 7, 2014
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Adopted	January 5, 2016
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Amended	January 3, 2018
Amended	January 2, 2019
Adopted	January 7, 2020
Adopted	January 5, 2021
Adopted	January 19, 2022
Adopted	January 3, 2023
Amended	January 2, 2024
Adopted	January 21, 2025
Amended	January 6, 2026