



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2011-03K

Establishing an Ethics Policy and Requiring Ethics Training

WHEREAS, Ohio's Ethics Laws applicable to public officials and employees, which first became effective January 1, 1974, have created high ethical standards for public officials and employees, including all individuals employed in the Executive Branch of State government and all members of its boards and commissions, by: requiring an annual personal financial disclosure; prohibiting unethical conduct in government and providing criminal sanctions for engaging in such unethical conduct; and, establishing uniform review of ethics issues by statewide commissions located in each of the three branches of State government.

WHEREAS, nearly four decades of decisions by Ohio courts and advisory opinions by the Ohio Ethics Commission have provided guidance to public officials and employees on the requirements of Ohio's Ethics Laws.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State do hereby order and direct that:

1. All individuals employed in the Executive Branch of State government and members of its boards and commissions shall adhere to the highest ethical standards in government as embodied in Ohio's Ethics Laws as codified in Chapters 102 and 2921 of the Ohio Revised Code and as interpreted by the courts of this State and by the Opinions of the Ohio Ethics Commission (the "Ethics Laws");
2. The Chief Legal Counsel of each State agency, board or commission (or, in the absence of a Chief Legal Counsel, the highest ranking in-house attorney at the State agency, board or commission) shall also be the Chief Ethics Officer for that agency, board or commission. In that role, the Chief Legal Counsel of each State agency, board or commission shall be responsible for assisting all employees of that agency, board or commission in complying with the requirements of the Ethics Laws and to answer any questions regarding the same. The Chief Legal Counsel shall also provide or arrange for some form of annual instruction on Ohio's Ethics Laws to all employees of that agency, board or commission, including guidance on areas of concern based upon the particular responsibilities or duties of that agency, board or commission;

3. The Chief Legal Counsel of each State agency, board or commission shall also annually provide, to all employees of that agency, board or commission subject to the financial disclosure requirement of Ohio Revised Code Section 102.02, additional instruction on the Ethics Laws in the areas of misuse of official position, revolving door restrictions, soliciting or receiving improper compensation, public contracts and disclosure of confidential information. Beginning January 31, 2012 and by each January 31st thereafter, each agency, board or commission Chief Legal Counsel shall report to my Chief Counsel the nature of the Ethics Laws instruction provided to their agency, board or commission employees in the previous calendar year;

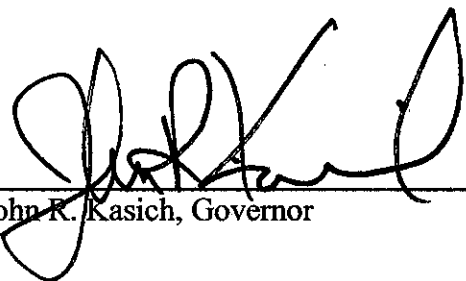
4. All State officials and employees are strongly encouraged to consult with their Chief Legal Counsel and/or the Ohio Ethics Commission concerning questions they may have about the Ethics Laws, particularly before they undertake any action about which they have questions concerning compliance with the Ethics Laws;

5. All State officials and employees are directed to report any alleged ethics violations by a State official or employee to the Ohio Ethics Commission and/or to the Inspector General; and

6. All State officials and employees are directed to fully cooperate with any official investigation of a potential ethics violation.

I signed this Executive Order on January 21, 2011 in Columbus, Ohio and it will expire on my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.




John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State