

## Ethics Board

- (a) There shall be an Ethics Board which shall consist of five members: one alderman; one City officer or employee; and four citizens, one of whom shall be an alternate who shall vote only in the absence or abstention of a member. Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by the Common Council. The citizen members shall be chosen from the private sector and shall not be affiliated with City government in any capacity, including, but not limited to, employment (including employment for which the salary is in any way funded by or through the City), appointment, or election. Terms of office of citizens shall be three years, one appointment to be made annually. The Ethics Board shall elect its own chairman and vice chairman and the City Attorney shall furnish the Board whatever legal assistance it deems is necessary to carry out its functions. If any member of the Ethics Board petitions the Board for a hearing and advice regarding his or her own conduct, such member shall not be eligible to sit in his or her own case, and the alternate shall substitute therefor when the need arises.
- (b) The jurisdiction of the Ethics Board is limited to acting within the scope of subs. (8)(d) and (9) of this code.
- (c) The Ethics Board may recommend amendments of this code to the Common Council.
- (d) Upon the sworn complaint of any person alleging facts, which, if true, would constitute a violation of this section, the Board shall conduct a "due process" public hearing unless a private hearing is requested by the person accused and, in written findings of fact and conclusions based thereon, make a determination concerning the complaint. If the Ethics Board finds there is probable cause a person has violated a provision of this section, it shall refer the matter to the City Attorney, District Attorney, or Common Council for appropriate action. In making such referral, the Ethics Board shall attach the findings and conclusions as well as such documents as it decides are germane to the issue; the statement of determination shall not be admissible as evidence in any court.
- (e) A four-fifths vote of the entire membership of the Board shall be required to make a finding of probable cause.