

## **Code of Conduct for County Election Commission Members and Administrators of Elections**

County Election Commission members and Administrators of Elections are expected to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of their office in order to conduct fair and trustworthy elections. The actions and conduct of the County Election Commission members and the Administrator of Elections impact the integrity of the election process. To further the interest of instilling confidence in the electoral process, County Election Commission members and Administrators of Elections must observe and follow the Code of Conduct as described below:

1. Comply with existing laws governing the conduct of elections in Tennessee;
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102
2. Implement the election laws in a fair and impartial manner;
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102, 2-2-203, 2-12-116 and CEC policies
3. Demonstrate impartiality and fairness to all voters, political parties, candidates and their representatives and all members of the public;
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102, 2-12-116 and CEC policies
4. Do not make disparaging or supportive comments or remarks about candidates or issues on the ballot, including but not limited to writing letters to the editor of a newspaper or posting comments on an internet blog; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any other social media, or participating in any way with direct mail, TV, radio, or other forms of communication in favor for or against any candidate or ballot referendum, identifying your position as a County Election Commission member or Administrator of Elections;
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102
5. Protect the secrecy of each voter's ballot;
  - a. TN Const. Art. IV, § 4 (as interpreted by *Mooney v. Phillips*, 118 S.W.2d 224 (1938) and *Burson v. Freeman*, 112 S. Ct. 1846 (1992)); Atty. Gen. Op. No. 96-027
6. Do not provide favors or divulge information which may be advantageous to candidates, or political parties, or ballot issues, unless such favor or information is available or provided to all candidates and political parties;
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102
7. Do not participate in the consideration of any election commission decisions involving immediate family members whose names appear on the ballot; and
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 12-4-114, SEC
8. Conduct all duties in a professional manner.
  - a. TCA §§ 2-1-111, 2-1-102, 2-2-203, 2-12-116, CEC policies

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions in accordance with the State Election Commission's statutory authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-12-101, including removal of a county election commission member or decertification of a certified Administrator of Elections.