

# TOWN OF RICHFIELD

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Section 1. Purpose

This Code of Ethics is adopted by the Town of Richfield Board of Commissioners pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-86, in order to establish standards of conduct that promote public confidence in local government.

### Section 2. General Principles

Commissioners shall:

- Uphold the public trust
- Comply with all applicable laws
- Exercise independent judgment
- Avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety
- Faithfully perform the duties of office

### Section 3. Conflicts of Interest

With respect to conflicts of interest, Commissioners shall comply with applicable laws, including:

- N.C.G.S. § 160A-75
- N.C.G.S. § 14-234

Commissioners shall disclose conflicts of interest in all matters and refrain from participation and voting where required.

### Section 4. Use of Public Position

Commissioners shall not use their position for personal gain or misuse public resources or confidential information, or act in any way inconsistent with applicable law.

### Section 5. Gifts and Favors

Commissioners shall avoid accepting gifts or favors that could influence, or appear to influence, official actions.

### Section 6. Conduct Toward Others

Adopted 4/27/2026

Commissioners shall treat fellow Commissioners, staff, and the public with respect and professionalism.

Commissioners shall respect the roles of:

- The Council as a governing body
- Town staff in carrying out the day-to-day administrative operations of the Town

Individual Commissioners shall not direct or supervise Town staff outside of duly authorized Board action.

### **Section 7. Open Government**

Members shall support transparency and comply with all applicable laws in this regard, including the Open Meetings Law (N.C.G.S. § 143-318.9 *et seq.*):

### **Section 8. Board Roles**

Authority is vested with the Board as a governing body, consistent with N.C.G.S. § 160A-67.

### **Section 9. Training**

Commissioners shall receive ethics education in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 160A-87.

### **Section 10. Enforcement**

This Code is intended to guide conduct and may be enforced through actions permitted by law. This Code does not create a private right of action.