



# *Winnebago County* *Chapter 1*

## ***General Government Ordinance***

**Adopted 06/18/1974**  
**Revised 02/27/2024**

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **PART I – GENERAL POVISIONS**

### **1.01 RECEIPT OF GIFTS AND GRATUITIES.**

**(1) No County employee or official shall:**

**(a)** Receive or offer to receive, either directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, or other thing of substantial value, for the private benefit of the employee or official or his immediate family, from any person, corporation, organization, or entity which:

1. has obtained or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business, or financial relationships, with Winnebago County or its departments, agencies, or boards; or

2. conducts operations or activities which are regulated or subsidized by Winnebago County, its departments, boards, or committees.

**(b)** For purposes of this ordinance, “substantial value” shall be presumed to include any gift, gratuity, or other item with an aggregate value of \$25.00 or greater. “Substantial value” does not include promotional trinkets of de minimus value such as pens, pencils, keychains, etc., nor does it include refreshments such as coffee, soda, pastries, juice, etc., provided as a matter of societal etiquette.

**(c)** For purposes of this ordinance, an “official” is defined as one holding a “local public office” as defined in WIS STAT. § [19.42\(7w\)](#).

**(d)** For purposes of this ordinance, “immediate family” is as defined in WIS STAT. § [19.42\(7\)](#).

**(2)** Should an official of Winnebago County knowingly be prohibited from partaking in any official action by virtue of WIS STAT. § [19.59\(1\)\(c\)](#), said official shall notify the Winnebago County Clerk of said prohibition in writing no later than ten (10) days after learning of said prohibition and the reasons therefore.

**(3) PENALTY.** Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable under Section 25.04 of the General Code of Winnebago County.

**(4) CANDIDATES SEEKING PUBLIC OFFICE.** Nothing herein shall prevent any County employee or official, as a candidate for public office, from accepting money, property, or other things of value as a campaign contribution pursuant to the provisions of WIS STAT. [Chapter 12](#).

**1.11 FEES AND LEGAL CUSTODIANS: PUBLIC RECORDS.**

(1) **AUTHORITY.** This section of the Code is adopted under the authority granted by WIS STAT. § [59.52](#) and WIS STAT. § [19.35\(3\)](#).

**(2) DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.** Means any of the following having custody of a record: an office, elected official, agency, board, commission, committee, council, department, or public body corporate and politic of Winnebago County created by constitution, law, ordinance, rule, or order; or formally constituted subunit of the foregoing.

(b) **RECORD.** Means any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual, or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which has been created or is being kept by an authority of Winnebago County. "Record" includes, but is not limited to, handwritten, typed or printed pages, maps, charges, photographs, films, recordings, tapes (including computer tapes), and computer printouts. "Records" does not include drafts, notes, preliminary computations and like materials prepared for the originator's personal use or prepared by the originator in the name of a person for whom the originator is working; materials which are purely the personal property of the custodian and have no relation to his or her office; materials to which access is limited by copyright, patent, or request; and published materials in the possession of an authority other than a public library which are available for sale, or which are available for inspection at a public library.

**(3) LEGAL CUSTODIANS.**

(a) A Winnebago County elected official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office, but the official may designate an employee of his or her staff to act as the legal custodian.

(b) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the County Clerk or the Clerk's designee shall act as legal custodian for the Winnebago County Board and for any committees, commissions, boards, or authorities created by ordinance or resolution of the Winnebago County Board.

(c) For every authority not specified in subs. (a) or (b), the authority's chief administrative officer is the legal custodian for the authority, but the officer may designate an employee of his or her staff to act as the legal custodian.

(d) Each legal custodian shall name a person to act as legal custodian in

his or her absence or the absence of his or her designate. This subsection does not apply to members of the Winnebago County Board.

- (e) The designation of a legal custodian does not affect the powers and duties of an authority under this subchapter.

**(4) FEES.**

- (a) Each authority shall impose a fee upon the requester of a copy of a record which may not exceed the actual, necessary and direct cost of reproduction and transcription of the record, unless a fee is otherwise specifically established or authorized by the law.
- (b) Each authority shall impose a fee upon the requester of a copy of a record for the actual, necessary, and direct cost of photographing and photographic processing if the authority provides a photograph of a record, the form of which does not permit copying.
- (c) Each authority shall impose a fee upon the requester of a record not, in printed form on paper such as films, computer printouts and audio or video tapes, which may not exceed the actual, necessary and direct cost of a copy of such record.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided by law or as authorized to be prescribed by law or as authorized to be prescribed by law, an authority shall impose a fee upon a requester for locating a record, not exceeding the actual, necessary and direct cost of location, if the cost is \$50.00 or more.
- (e) Each authority shall impose a fee upon a requester for the actual, necessary, and direct cost of mailing or shipping any copy or photograph of a record which is mailed or shipped to the requester.
- (f) An authority may provide copies of a record without charge or at a reduced charge where the authority determines that waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest.
- (g) Each authority shall require prepayment by a requester of any fee or fees imposed under this subsection if the total amount exceeds \$5.00.

- (5) EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 1983.

## **PART II – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **1.12 PER DIEM, MILEAGE EXPENSES REQUIREMENT: COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.**

**(1) AUTHORITY.** This section of the Code is adopted under the authority granted by WIS STAT. § [59.10\(3\)\(f\)](#) through [\(i\)](#) and WIS STAT. § [59.13\(2\)](#).

**(2) DEFINITIONS.**

**(a) AUTHORIZED MEETING** shall mean:

- (1)** The convening of a standing, select or special committee of the county board or subcommittee thereof for duly authorized purposes pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 19.81-19.98 (open meetings of governmental bodies) and the rules of the county board wherein an agenda is published, quorum is present, and regular business is conducted; or
- (2)** The attendance by a supervisor at any conference, meeting, or event which the chairperson of the county board, or the vice chairperson in the chairperson's absence, directs him or her to attend; or
- (3)** Claims for expenses reimbursement not submitted to the office of the county clerk before the first Monday of each month shall not be processed for payment in that month.
- (4)** All supervisors shall submit claims for compensation and expenses pursuant to this article. Subject to the approval of the county board chairperson, or the vice chairperson if the chairperson is unavailable, claims for expense reimbursement shall be paid by the county, except those claims which are in excess of sums permitted by the Winnebago County General Code or state law. No claim shall be made by any supervisor for expense reimbursement which the supervisor has not actually incurred or earned.
- (5)** Supervisors shall be eligible for expense reimbursement for attending the following:
  - (a)** Authorized meetings of the County Board of Supervisors;
  - (b)** Authorized meetings of any committee of jurisdiction of the county board in addition to any board, commission, task force, or consortium to which the supervisor has been duly appointed;
- (6)** A monthly salary shall be paid and expenses shall be reimbursed to a supervisor while attending meetings described in (5) as follows:

**(a) Monthly Salary**

County Board Supervisor's Monthly Salary.....	\$500
Committee Chairperson..... additional \$75 per month per committee	
County Board Chairperson Monthly Salary .....	\$1400
County Board Vice-Chairperson Monthly Salary .....	\$700

**(b) Mileage, Lodging, and Meals ... Section 3.05 of the Winnebago County General Code**

**(7)** Non-supervisors who are duly appointed to serve on committees, boards, commissions who are not acting within the scope of their employment or office in so doing, shall be paid \$75.00 per half day of service (4 hours or less) and \$100 per full day of service (more than 4 hours). Board of Canvas Citizen Members, in recognition of the stress and concerted effort required, shall be paid \$100 per half day of service (4 hours or less) and \$150 per full day of service (more than 4 hours).

**(8) EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall be effective as of February 27, 2024.

**1.20 COUNTY GRIEVANCE REVIEW BOARD.**

- (1) AUTHORITY.** This section is adopted under the authority granted by Wis STAT. § [66.0509\(1m\)](#).
- (2) TITLE.** This section shall be known as, referred to, or cited as, "Winnebago County Grievance Review Board Ordinance."
- (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section shall take effect October 1, 1977.
- (4) MEMBERSHIP.**
  - (a)** The Grievance Review Board shall be composed of five (5) members, all of whom shall be legal residents of Winnebago County with an appreciation for and knowledge of personnel management and dedication to the concept of equal employment opportunity.
  - (b)** No person holding any elective or appointed public position of office in County government shall be appointed to the Grievance Review Board.
  - (c)** The Grievance Review Board shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Board of Supervisors.
  - (d)** Members of the Grievance Review Board shall not be employed in any capacity by the County.



(e) Except as hereinafter provided, the term of office of each member of the Grievance Review Board shall be five (5) years. The terms of office initially appointed shall be as follows:

1. One member shall be appointed for a term commencing with the date of appointment and ending December 31, 1978.
2. One member shall be appointed for a term commencing with the date of appointment and ending December 31, 1979.
3. One member shall be appointed for a term commencing with the date of appointment and ending December 31, 1980.
4. One member shall be appointed for a term commencing with the date of appointment and ending December 31, 1981.
5. One member shall be appointed for a term commencing with the date of appointment and ending December 31, 1982.

**(5) JURISDICTION.**

(a) Except as hereinafter provided, the jurisdiction of the Grievance Review Board shall be limited to appeals from County employees alleging discrimination or improper separation from County employment. Determinations by the Board shall be binding upon all parties.

(b) Nothing herein shall limit County employees' rights under WIS STAT. § [111.70](#). If a County employee or duly authorized representative pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement elects to appeal a decision alleging discrimination or improper separation from County employment through a grievance procedure contained in such collective bargaining agreement, the Board shall have no jurisdiction to review that same decision.

**(6) PROCEDURE.** The Grievance Review Board shall establish the procedures for filing appeals, hearings, and other matters relating to its operation. Copies of the procedures established by the Grievance Review Board shall be available in the Office of the Human Resources Director for Winnebago County.



CHAPTER 1  
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY INDEX

<b>1.01</b>	Ordinance adopted	June 18, 1974
	Amended	November 16, 1999
<b>1.01(10) and (11)</b>	Amended	July 31, 2001
<b>1.11</b>	Ordinance adopted	December 21, 1982
<b>1.12</b>	Amended	September 13, 2023
<b>1.12(7)(a)</b>	Amended	November 13, 2007
	Amended	November 21, 2017
<b>1.12(10)</b>	Amended	October 18, 2022 (Effective January 1, 2023)
<b>1.12(10)</b>	Amended	February 27, 2024
<b>1.20</b>	Ordinance adopted	September 20, 1977
	Amended	September 19, 1991
<b>1.30</b>	Ordinance adopted	April 20, 1993 (Effective May 1, 1993)