

Ethics in Municipal Government

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Three Ethical Duties of City Councilors

1. Duty of Responsible Diligence
2. Fiduciary Duty of Good Faith
3. Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest

Duty of Responsible Diligence

Reasonable Person Test:

Councilors must exercise their duties with the care, diligence and skill of a prudent person in similar circumstances.

Fiduciary Duties of Good Faith

- Councilors owe duties of good faith, trust and honesty to both the municipal corporation and their community.
- Personal Interests must be subordinate to the best interests of the municipality.

Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest

- Alberta *Municipal Government Act*, ss. 169 to 173:
 - Councilor must disclose their pecuniary interest in a matter before council and abstain from voting on and discussing the matter.
 - A councilor can be disqualified from council if he or she fails to disclose a pecuniary interest.

Ethical Codes of Conduct

- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Ethical Guidelines of Conduct for Members of Council:
 - Councilors must:
 - Govern their conduct in accordance with the requirements and obligations set out in municipal legislation.
 - Not use confidential information for personal profit or themselves or any other person.
 - Not communicate confidential information to anyone not entitled to receive the same.
 - Not use their position to secure privileges, favor, or advantages for themselves or any other person.
 - Preserve the integrity and impartiality of Council.



Questions?

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