

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting, November 18, 2025

Hybrid meeting held in person and virtually via Zoom

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

- Elizabeth Kellar, Chair
- Rahul Goel, Vice-Chair
- Kenita Barrow
- Susan Beard
- Eric Gallun

Staff Members:

- Erin O'Connor, Staff Director/Chief Counsel
- Hiwote Yohannes, Program Manager

Meeting Items

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair.
2. The October 2025 meeting minutes were approved with one correction.
3. Ms. Yohannes updated the Commission on the number of individuals trained within the last month, including a breakdown of which groups have been trained throughout the County government. Ms. O'Connor provided the Commission with the training date schedule for various quasi-governmental entities and updated the Commission on the state of readiness for the impending financial disclosure filing season and lobbying registration kick-offs taking place in the next two months.
4. The Ethics Commission held officer elections. Ms. Kellar will remain the Chair, and Ms. Barrow was elected to serve as Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26).
5. Ms. O'Connor notified the Commission of a budget meeting with the Office of Management and Budget scheduled for November 21. She also apprised the

Commission of her efforts to have the Legislative Branch utilize an ethics questionnaire currently used for non-merit employees in the Executive Branch. Ms. O'Connor's hope is that the ethics questionnaire will be given to prospective upper management employees in the Legislative Branch in order to prevent or mitigate any conflicts of interest prior to new employees being onboarded in the Legislative Branch.

Administrative Meeting Summary

6. The open meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm to conduct administrative matters.
7. In the administrative meeting, the Commission approved all of the outside employment requests, asking for an additional condition to be attached to one request prior to approval.
8. The Commission reviewed and acted on five waiver requests.
9. The Commission reviewed two new matters.
10. The Commission received a status update on one complaint.
11. The Commission reviewed two new complaints.
12. The Commission reviewed two requests for advice.
13. The administrative meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erin O'Connor

Staff Director/Chief Counsel