

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION
St. Mary's County Chesapeake Building
Minutes of October 5, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert McGann, Chair
Jennifer Gilman
Nicholas Hooper
Dan Kerns
Paul Wickes

Joe Densford, Counsel for the Ethics Commission
Gillian Bacon, Recorder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mariss Armour, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McGann at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. McGann welcomed Jennifer Gilman, the newest member of the commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Review/Approval of the 2027 Meeting Calendar

The Commission reviewed the draft 2027 calendar with the following dates, 1/4, 4/5, 7/6, and 10/4/27.

A motion was made by Mr. Wickes, seconded by Ms. Gilman to approve the 2027 meeting calendar as presented. Vote passed 4-0.

Not present at vote: Nicholas Hooper.

2027 Draft Annual Report

The Commission reviewed the annual report noting a few corrections to be made.

A motion was made by Mr. Kerns, seconded by Ms. Gilman to accept the report with corrections. Vote was passed 4-0.

Not present at vote: Nicholas Hooper.

Voluntary Disclosure Letter

The Commission reviewed the voluntary disclosure letter submitted and noted that it appears to address any ethical concerns and that the steps taken by the submitter, as outlined in the letter, are adequate to resolve any potential conflicts of interest restrictions that may be imposed by the St. Mary's County Ethics Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Kerns, seconded by Mr. Wickes to send a letter to the submitter expressing the Commission's appreciation for the voluntary disclosure and confirming that the actions taken by the submitter are sufficient. Vote was passed 4-0.

Not present at vote: Nicholas Hooper.

Request for an Advisory Opinion

The Commission met with the requestor to discuss Advisory Opinion 26-0001.

A motion was made by Mr. Kerns, seconded by Mr. Hooper to move that we task our attorney with writing an advisory opinion of AO26-0001 recommending that the County Commissioners consider

amending the St. Mary's County Ethics Ordinance to address this and similar discounts in a manner that is fair to all County employees and consistent with State practices, while preserving employee impartiality. Vote was passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Wickes to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. Vote passed 5-0.