

## **Vermont State Ethics Commission**

## Virtual Listening Sessions: Municipal Ethics in Vermont Sessions will be held on November 7, 10 and 28, 2023

The <u>Vermont State Ethics Commission</u> will hold **virtual listening sessions** in November to receive public comments, recommendations, and suggestions from all interested persons regarding municipal ethics in Vermont. This effort is to help inform the Commission's development of a proposed municipal ethics framework pursuant to <u>H.125 (Act 53)</u>, which requires the Commission to submit recommendations on municipal ethics to the legislature on or before Jan. 15th, 2024. These sessions will be held remotely via Zoom on the following dates:

- November 7, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Eastern Time (for members of the public)
- November 21, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Eastern Time (for municipal officials)
- November 28, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Eastern Time (additional session for those who are unable to attend a previous session)

To help facilitate the discussion, participants are asked to consider the following topics:

- 1. Are there clear standards for ethical conduct in your municipality? What topics do they cover? How are they applied?
- 2. If there are clear standard for ethical conduct for your municipality, do you think there are ways they could be improved? If so, how? If not, what do you think is working well?
- 3. How do you feel about the current approach to municipal ethics in Vermont? Would it be helpful if the ethical standards for municipalities were uniform. Why or why not?
- 4. How could the State Ethics Commission best assist municipalities when it comes to governmental ethics?

Persons wishing to give an oral comment (of 3 minutes maximum) at one of the listening sessions, time permitting, should submit a written request to the Commission at <a href="mailto:ethicscommission@vermont.gov">ethicscommission@vermont.gov</a>. The request should include your name and organizational affiliation (if any), a brief overview of your proposed presentation, and any documents you want to be shared on screen while you are speaking.

Additional written comments, suggestions, or recommendations about municipal ethics in Vermont can be submitted to the State Ethics Commission at <a href="mailto:ethicscommission@vermont.gov">ethicscommission@vermont.gov</a> by to December 10, 2023.