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Public Access to Conflict of Interest Codes

Do you know where to find the Conflict of Interest Code for Ventura County and its incorporated cities?

The 2015-2016 Ventura County Grand Jury investigated two key questions regarding conflict of interest standards: First, have Ventura County and the 10 cities within the County, each established a Conflict of Interest Code with standards consistent with the California Political Reform Act? Second, have the County and the 10 cities provided transparency by establishing user-friendly access to their respective Conflict of Interest Codes?

The Grand Jury reviewed the California statutes and regulations governing conflict of interest and examined the official websites of the County and the 10 cities. In addition, the Grand Jury communicated with government officials.

The Grand Jury found that the elected officials in Ventura County and its 10 cities have all adopted Conflict of Interest Codes which meet or exceed State standards. The Grand Jury found that there was a wide variation in the ease of access to the Conflict of Interest Codes.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and city councils of the 10 cities within the County establish a direct online method for public access to their Conflict of Interest Codes.

The complete report may be accessed at www.ventura.org/grand-jury; click on the Annual Reports tab and consult "Fiscal Year 2015-2016."

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