



# State of Nevada Ethics Manual

## Commission Overview

### **Mission Statement**

The Nevada Commission on Ethics, by the authority granted under [Chapter 281A](#) of NRS, strives to enhance the public's faith and confidence in government by ensuring that public officers and public employees uphold the public trust by committing themselves to avoid conflicts between their private interests and their public duties.

### **Guiding Principles**

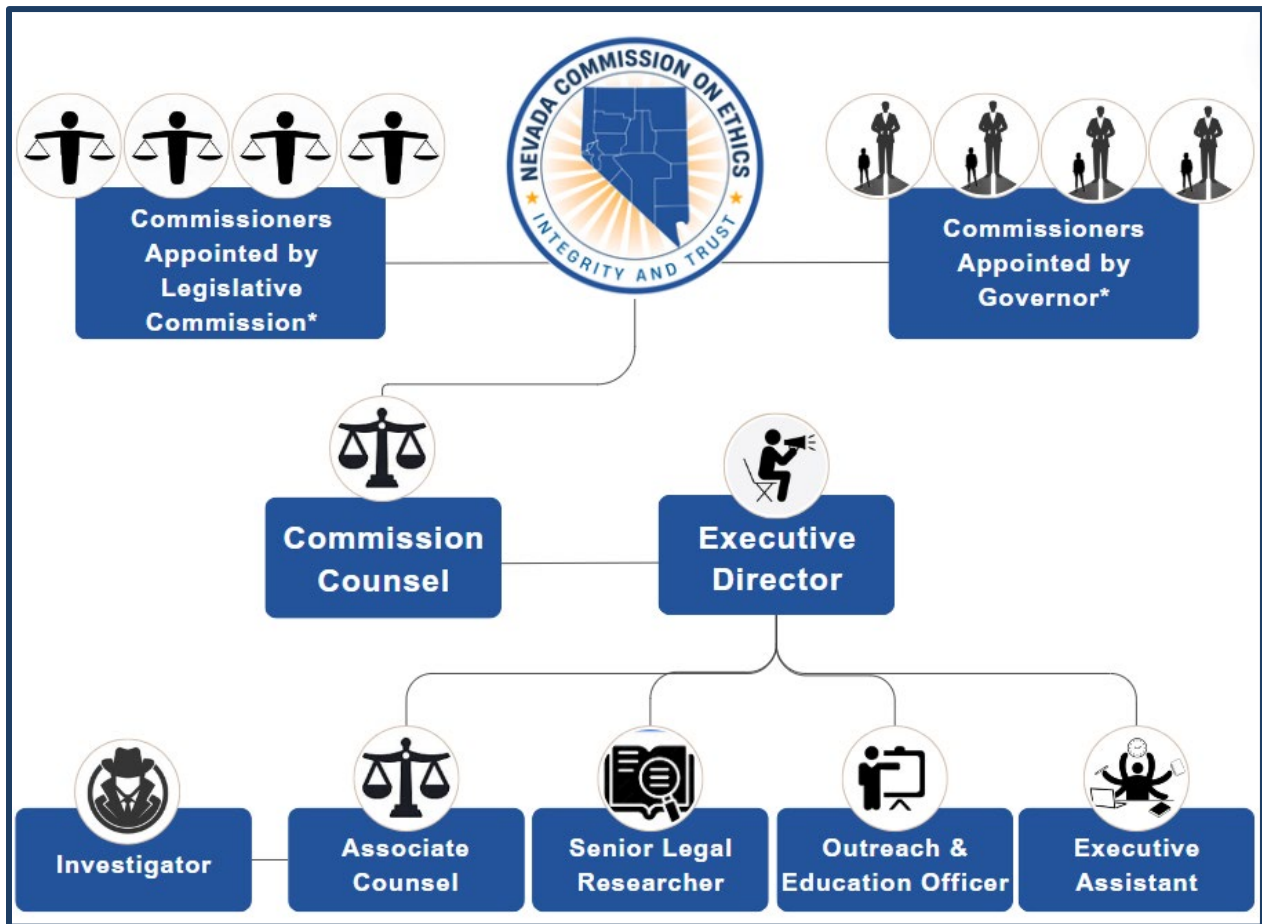
1. Our highest priority is to protect the citizens of Nevada by interpreting and enforcing the provisions of the Ethics Law in a fair, consistent and impartial manner.
2. We act with a high degree of integrity, honesty and respect when investigating and adjudicating public complaints alleging ethics violations by public officers and employees.
3. We are committed to providing outreach and education to our Stakeholders (the public and public officers and employees) to enhance their awareness and understanding of ethics requirements and prohibitions under the Nevada Ethics law.
4. Our objectivity, independence and impartiality are beyond reproach. We avoid all personal or professional circumstances or conflicts calling these into question.
5. Our processes ensure all actions, decisions and policies are consistently applied and do not result in advantages or disadvantages to any party to the detriment of another.
6. Our confidential advisory opinions are thoroughly researched and written with the needs of the requestor in mind and consistent with opinion precedent and applicable statutes including legislative intent.
7. We carry out our duties in a rigorous and detailed manner and utilize the resources provided to us wisely and only for the legitimate purposes of the agency.
8. We continuously challenge ourselves to improve the practices and processes of the agency to keep pace with the needs of the individuals we serve and to comply with legislative mandates.
9. We continuously improve our public communication and public access to provide guidance and assistance to those we hold accountable for compliance.
10. We value and respect the opinions and recommendations of our Stakeholders, Staff and Commission Members which guide us in our decision making.

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### Commission Structure

\*Make-up of the Commission:

- 2 Commissioner appointments must be former public officers/employees.
- 1 must be a Nevada Licensed attorney.
- No more than 4 members can be from the same political party or reside in the same county.

Commissioners are prohibited from:

- Serving more than two consecutive, 4-year terms
- Holding another public office
- Being actively involved in the work of any political party or campaign
- Lobbying

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### Legislative History

**1975**

- Legislature Establishes Ethics Commission
- Executive and Legislative Jurisdiction

**1976**

- Nevada Supreme Court declares ethics law unconstitutionally vague

**1977**

- AB 450 establishes two new Commissions
- Executive and Legislative separate
- The Commissions rarely met

**1985**

- SB 345 amends law to create one Commission

**2009**

- Nevada Supreme Court rules Commission jurisdiction can't extend to Legislator "Core Legislative Functions"

**2015**

- AB 496 further narrows Commission jurisdiction over Legislators

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### **How is the Commission Funded?**

A large part of the Commission on Ethics' workload involves public officers and employees from towns, cities, counties, and other local areas in Nevada, rather than those in state government. Every two years, the Legislature adjusts the funding proportion based on the actual local government population numbers in the previous two years. The formula for funding the Commission's work is outlined in statute [NRS 281A.270](#).

Counties with a population of 10,000 or more and cities with a population of 15,000 or more contribute to covering the costs of the Commission's functions. The amount paid by these local areas is determined based on their population compared to the total population of all cities and unincorporated areas in Nevada. These funds are deposited into the State Treasury and are managed in the State General Fund, specifically allocated to the Commission's budget account.

### **Video Resources**

- [Commission Structure 5-min Video](#)
- [Introduction to Ethics Categories 4-min Video](#)
- [Commission Press Releases](#)
- [Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)