



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney St.
Denton, Texas 76201
www.cityofdenton.com

Meeting Agenda

Board of Ethics

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:30 PM

CANCELLED

***** CANCELLATION NOTICE *****

**PLEASE NOTE - THIS MEETING WAS CANCELED ON JANUARY 8, 2026
AND WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.**

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF ETHICS

Citizens are also able to participate in the following way (NOTE: Other than public hearings, citizens are only able to comment one time per agenda item; citizens cannot use both methods to comment on a single agenda item. Public comments are not held for work session reports.):

- eComment – On January 6, 2026, the agenda was posted online at <https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>. Once the agenda is posted, a link to make virtual comments using the eComment module will be made available next to the meeting listing on the Upcoming Events Calendar. Within eComment, citizens may indicate support or opposition and submit a brief comment about a specific agenda item. Comments may be submitted up until the start of the meeting at which time the ability to make an eComment will be closed. Similar to when a citizen submits a white card to indicate their position on an item, the eComments will be sent directly to members of the Board of Ethics and recorded by the Secretary.

Members review comments received in advance of the meeting and take that public input into consideration prior to voting on an agenda item. The Chair will announce the number of Comment Cards submitted in support or opposition to an item during the public comment period. Comments will not be read during the meeting. The Secretary will reflect the number of comments submitted in favor/opposition to an item, the registrant's name, address, and (summary of) comments within the Minutes of the Meeting, as applicable.

After determining that a quorum is present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, will convene in a Special Called Meeting on Monday January 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business on items as listed on the agenda and in-person presentations (allows for comments on items not listed on the agenda.) Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes with up to five speakers per meeting.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. [BOE25-037](#) Receive nominations and hold an election of a Chair and Vice-Chair
[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- B. [BOE25-039](#) Consider approval of minutes for the June 2, 2025, July 10, 2025, and November 10, 2025, meetings.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Jun. 2, 2025 Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Jun. 2, 2025 Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3 - Nov. 10, 2025 Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

- C. [BOE25-038](#) Hold a discussion and consider adoption of the 2026 meeting schedule.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- D. [BOE26-040](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-269 Definitions.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 15 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- E. [BOE26-041](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-279 Complaints.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 15 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- F. [BOE26-042](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding potential agenda topics for a joint meeting with the City Council.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 15 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- G. [BOE26-043](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics \(January 2026\).pdf](#)

NOTE: The Board of Ethics reserves the right to adjourn into a Closed Meeting on any item on its Open Meeting agenda consistent with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, or as otherwise allowed by law.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on January 6, 2026, in advance of the three (3) business day posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST TWO (2) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.

City of Denton



City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
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www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive nominations and hold an election of a Chair and Vice-Chair.

BACKGROUND

According to the City of Denton's Boards and Commissions Handbook, Board and Commission officers shall be elected annually in January or February – or at the first board meeting of each calendar year.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On January 6, 2025, the Board initially elected Member Annetta Ramsay to Chair.

On January 6, 2025, the Board elected Member Dustin Pavelek to Vice Chair.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor

City of Denton Board of Ethics

After determining that a quorum was present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, convened in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

PRESENT: Chair Annetta Ramsay, Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek, Dianne Baker, and Patricia Reinke

ABSENT: Kenneth Ferguson and Andrea Eberhard

1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. **BOE25-025** Consider approval of minutes for June 2 and 9, 2025.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek motioned to approve the special called meeting minutes for June 2; motion seconded by Member Patricia Reinke. Member Dianne Baker chose to abstain from the vote; thus, quorum could not be met for the vote. The vote for approval for the minutes will take place in the next Board of Ethics meeting.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Member Dustin Pavelek motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 9; motion seconded by Member Patricia Reinke.

AYES (4): Annetta Ramsay, Patricia Reinke, Dustin Pavelek, Dianne Baker

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Kenneth Ferguson and Andrea Eberhard

B. **BOE25-026** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-282(b) Sanctions.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Direction was given to staff to proceed with the potential amendment for suspension for one (1) year sanction, and to discuss fees incurred by the City at the next meeting.

C. **BOE25-027** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding timeframes for processing submitted Ethics Complaints.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Direction was given to staff to continue with the current timeframe for processing submitted complaints.

D. BOE25-028 Management Reports

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

E. BOE25-029 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. The direction was given to skip the August meeting, and will reconvene in September for its regular scheduled meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Annetta Ramsay
Chair

Madison Rorschach
Recording Secretary

APPROVED ON: _____

City of Denton Board of Ethics

After determining that a quorum was present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, convened in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek, and Members Kenneth Ferguson, and Andrea Eberhard

ABSENT: None

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. BOE25-024 Request for Advisory Opinion No. 25-001, received May 20, 2025, from Commissioner Sherri McDade concerning potential conflicts of interest and recusal recommendation.

Andrea Eberhard motioned for Dustin Pavelek to represent the committee as the presiding officer for the advisory panel; Kenneth Ferguson seconded the motion.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

The items were presented, and a discussion followed. It was founded by the panel that Categories 1 and 2 would fall under the definition of conflict of interest, Sec 2-273, a. 1. B. and Sec 2-273, a.1. E., as the Denton Housing Authority is involved in each project, no matter how remote.

Kenneth Ferguson motioned that the Advisory Opinion Panel determined that Category 1 falls under a conflict of interest and would require disclosure and recusal; Andrea Eberhard seconded the motion.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

Kenneth Ferguson motioned that Category 2, similar to Category 1, that under the definition of deliberation which includes a discussion with City of Denton staff, that the panel finds it as a conflict of interest and require disclosure and recusal; Andrea Eberhard seconded the motion.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

After deliberation, the panel determined that there were not enough facts to determine an opinion on Categories 3 and 4.

Dustin Pavelek motioned that the advisory opinion noted that the questions posed in Categories 3 and 4 do not have enough facts to determine a conflict of interest as they are worded in the request and is recommended that additional advisory opinions are requested on a case-by-case basis.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

Additionally, it was determined that Categories 5 and 6 are similar under the definition of deliberation. Kenneth Ferguson motioned that the requests are too vague, and that the commissioner should request an additional advisory opinion on a case-by-case basis. Dustin Pavelek seconded the motion.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

Andrea Eberhard motioned to amend the motion for Categories 5 and 6 for the requests are too vague by requesting that future advisory opinion requests should include how the Denton Housing Authority is involved in the project. Dustin Pavelek seconded the motion.

AYES (3): Dustin Pavelek, Kenneth Ferguson, Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (0):

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Dustin Pavelek
Presiding Officer

Madison Rorschach
Recording Secretary

APPROVED ON: _____

City of Denton Board of Ethics

After determining that a quorum was present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, convened in a Regular Called Meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

PRESENT: Chair Annetta Ramsay, Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek, Dianne Baker, Patricia Reinke, Andrea Eberhard and Kenneth Ferguson

ABSENT:

1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. BOE25-033 Consider approval of minutes for July 14, 2025.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Member Dianne Baker motioned to approve the July 14, 2025, minutes with amendments; motion seconded by Vice Chair Dustin Pavelek.

AYES (5): Annetta Ramsay, Dustin Pavelek, Patricia Reinke, Dianne Baker, and Andrea Eberhard

NAYS (0): None

ABSTAINED (1): Kenneth Ferguson

ABSENT (0):

B. BOE25-034 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-282(c) Frivolous.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Direction was given to staff to amend the definition of frivolous complaint for clarity, to look at a freeze period for Ethics Complaint submissions around elections, and to research options for monetary sanctions or reimbursements for frivolous complaints. Item was then tabled until the next meeting for further discussion.

C. BOE25-035 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding a potential joint meeting with the City Council.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. City Council was tentatively interested in the idea of a joint meeting but would like a letter with a proposed agenda about what would be discussed. Board member Andrea Eberhard proposed a work session to discuss with City Council once the redlined changes to the packet were ready. Members of the Board expressed a desire to hear what the City Council was interested in hearing about with respect to the Ethics Board. Direction was given to staff to

take to the agenda committee the idea get a work session scheduled for January or February where Madison can walk them through general ideas that the board has had about potential changes, and which of these are of interest to the City Council. The Board of Ethics can refine the list of potential topics to present at the next board meeting.

D. BOE25-036 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

E. BOE25-029 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. The direction was given to cancel the December meeting and reconvene in January.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Annetta Ramsay
Chair

Madison Rorschach
Recording Secretary

APPROVED ON: _____



City of Denton

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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Hold a discussion and consider adoption of the 2026 meeting schedule.

BACKGROUND

To facilitate compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Secretary requires that all City Boards and Commissions approve an annual schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. Staff requested that Board of Ethics members provide information about their meeting time availability.

DISCUSSION

Based on previously received direction from the Board, Staff recommends that all meetings begin at 5:30 PM. Based on the Board of Ethics' current workload, staff recommends moving to a bimonthly meeting schedule as follows:

- Today
- May 11
- September 14
- March 9
- July 13
- November 9

If the Board would prefer to keep a monthly schedule, the following dates should be adopted:

- Today
- April 13
- July 13
- October 12
- February 9
- May 11
- August 10
- November 9
- March 9
- June 8
- September 14
- December 14

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On June 25, 2020, the Board of Ethics unanimously agreed to schedule regular meetings the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. On February 25, 2021, the Board gave staff direction to schedule regular meetings the last Thursday of each month generally at 3:00 PM, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. On March 31, 2022, the Board of Ethics gave direction to hold their regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of each month. On January 9, 2023, the Board of Ethics gave direction to hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings at 5:30 pm.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor

City of Denton



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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-269 Definitions.

BACKGROUND

City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics), Sec. 2-277 (i) states that the Board of Ethics may recommend amendments to Article XI (i.e., the Ethics Ordinance) to the City Council from time to time.

DISCUSSION

During the November 10, 2025, meeting of the Board of Ethics, the Board gave staff direction to bring back proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance, including updating the definitions of Baseless Complaint and Frivolous Complaint. These proposed changes are outlined below. Other definitions of Complaint that appear in the Definitions section of the Ethics Ordinance are included for context as well as Staff's recommendations regarding the proposed changes.

- Complaint: “written documentation submitted to the City accusing a City Official of violating [the Ethics Ordinance].”
- Accepted Complaint: “a sworn allegation of a violation of [the Ethics Ordinance] after the required documentation has been submitted to the City Auditor and determined to be administratively complete.”
- Actionable Complaint: “an Accepted Complaint that has been deemed by a Panel to contain allegations and evidence that, if accepted as true, would support a finding that a violation of [the Ethics Ordinance] occurred.
- ~~Baseless-Non-Actionable~~ Complaint: “a Complaint that does not allege conduct that would constitute a violation of [the Ethics Ordinance], or that does not provide evidence that, if true, would support a violation of [the Ethics Ordinance].
 - Staff generated the following additional options to replace the term Baseless with instead of Non-Actionable for the Board’s consideration:
 - Groundless: “having no ground or foundation.”
 - Unsupported: “not verified or substantiated.”
 - Inapplicable: “not having anything to do with the matter at hand.”
- Frivolous Complaint: “a sworn Complaint that is ~~groundless and~~ brought in bad faith, or ~~groundless and~~ brought for the purpose of harassment.”

- Staff recommends not removing the requirement for a Complaint to be groundless to be considered a Frivolous Complaint because it would allow the Board of Ethics to find a Complaint Frivolous while finding that a Respondent violated the Ethics Ordinance.
- Staff recommends that the Board of Ethics consider if the term groundless should be defined (e.g., Groundless Complaint: “An Actionable Complaint that alleges a violation of the Ethics Ordinance that is not reasonably certain to have occurred”) or replaced with the term with Baseless.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted by City Council

Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Member experience requirements

Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members

Apr. 15, 2025: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:

Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228

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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-279 Complaints.

BACKGROUND

City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics), Sec. 2-277 (i) states that the Board of Ethics may recommend amendments to Article XI (i.e., the Ethics Ordinance) to the City Council from time to time.

DISCUSSION

During the November 10, 2025, meeting of the Board of Ethics, the Board gave staff direction to create options for defining a period before City Council elections during which Ethics Complaint processing would be frozen. Based on this direction, Staff has created the outlined options to streamline discussion:

Decision	Options
Applicable Respondents	<ol style="list-style-type: none">All City Officials (i.e., Council Members, Department Heads, or members of the Board of Ethics, Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Historic Landmark Commission, or Public Utilities Board)—would halt all Ethics Complaint processing.Current Council Members—would allow Ethics Complaint processing for City Officials who are not Council Members, but may be Candidates.City Official Candidates (i.e., “a person who has filed an application for a place on a ballot seeking public office, or one who has publicly announced the intention to do so”)—would halt Ethics Complaint processing for City Officials who are also Candidates for any public office.
Applicable Elections	<ol style="list-style-type: none">All elections held for a City of Denton City Council place (i.e., regular, special, and run-off elections)—could create multiple freeze periods a year.Elections held for a City of Denton City Council place on a Uniform Election Day—would create one regular freeze period a year; would <u>not</u> freeze processing for run-off elections.Any election held on a Uniform Election Day (i.e., the first Saturday in May or first Tuesday after the first Monday in November)—would create two regular freeze periods a year; would <u>not</u> freeze processing for run-off elections.
Freeze Period Length before Election	<ol style="list-style-type: none">One Week/Seven Calendar Days/Five Business Days—shortest recommended period; second campaign contributions and expenditures report due on 8th day before Election.Two Weeks/14 Calendar Days/Ten Business Days—encompasses the entire early voting period.Four Weeks/30 Calendar Days/20 Business Days—begins just after the first campaign contributions and expenditures report is due on the 30th day before the Election.
Freeze Period Measurement Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Business Days—period would begin on a Sunday at 5:01 pm.Calendar Days—period would begin on a Friday at 5:01 pm.

In addition, Staff recommends the following additional procedural steps if an Ethics Complaint processing freeze period were implemented:

- Any “frozen” Ethics Complaints would resume processing on the next business day after the election date.
- Ethics Complaints that were filed with the City Auditor before the freeze period began would continue to be processed during the freeze period (i.e., a Preliminary Panel or Hearing may still be held during this time).
- Ethics Complaints submitted on the applicable election day would not be considered frozen.
- If an Ethics Complaint was received during the freeze period, the City Auditor would notify the Complainant that (1) the Complaint was received; (2) the freeze period and its effects; and (3) the date by which the City Auditor must determine if the Complaint is Accepted; and (4) relevant information about the Ethics Ordinance’s expectations of Confidentiality and *ex parte* communications prohibition.
- The City Auditor shall not be required to notify any person, including the Respondent, of an Ethics Complaint filed during a freeze period until the period is complete per the existing Complaint processing procedures.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted by City Council

Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Member experience requirements

Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members

Apr. 15, 2025: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor



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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding potential agenda topics for a joint meeting with the City Council.

BACKGROUND

In previous meetings, the Board of Ethics has discussed requesting a joint meeting between the Board of Ethics and the City Council. During the Agenda Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION

Based on previous Board of Ethics meetings, Staff has created the following potential agenda topics for a potential joint meeting between the Board of Ethics and the City Council:

- Report on the implementation of the Ethics Ordinance to date (e.g., significant updates to the Ordinance language, number of Complaints and Advisory Opinion requests processed, etc.)
- Proposed clarification, refinement, or additions to the Prohibitions and Mandates sections.
- Developing guidance or training for City Officials on interpreting the Ethics Ordinance.
- Potential changes to the procedures for determining if an Ethics Complaint is Actionable or Baseless (i.e., the Preliminary Panel process).
- Appropriateness of sanctions for violating the Ethics Ordinance.
- Creation of campaign financing or lobbyist rules.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted
Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to remove profession preferences
Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members
Apr. 15, 2025: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:
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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Board of Ethics
CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach
DATE: January 12, 2026

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

BACKGROUND

City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics), Sec. 2-277 (i) states that the Board of Ethics may recommend amendments to Article XI (i.e., the Ethics Ordinance) to the City Council from time to time.

DISCUSSION

Based on direction received at previous meetings the following meeting topics have been proposed.

Topic	Est. Time
Review Complaint Reconsideration Process	0:30
Comprehensive Review of Current Sanctions	1:00
Preliminary Panel Member Objection Process	0:30
Order to Show Cause Process	0:45
Guidance on Interactions with Petitioners (Council Request)	0:30
Advisory Opinion Process	0:30

DIRECTION

Based on this information, Staff would like direction from the Board on the following:

- What topic(s), if any, does the Board of Ethics want to be added to future meeting agendas; and
- Any additional topics that the Board wishes to discuss at future meetings.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted
Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to remove profession preferences
Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations
Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members
Apr. 15, 2025: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics (January 2026)

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor

Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics

Updated: January 5, 2026

Meeting	Item	Est. Time
January 2026	Minutes	0:05
	Election of Chair & Vice Chair	0:05
	Meeting Schedule Adoption	0:05
	Definitions of a Complaint	0:15
	Ethics Complaint Processing Freeze Period	0:15
	Potential Topics for a Joint Meeting	0:15
	Future Meeting Topics Update	0:05
	Total Est. Time:	1:05
TBD 2026	Minutes	0:05
	General Sanctions Discussion	0:30
	<i>TBD</i>	
	Management Reports (if needed)	0:05
	Future Meeting Topics Update	0:05
	Total Est. Time:	0:45
TBD 2026	Minutes	0:05
	<i>TBD</i>	
	Management Reports (if needed)	0:05
	Future Meeting Topics Update	0:05
	Total Est. Time:	0:15