

# *Municipal Codes of Ethics*

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2

## Why Should Any Municipality Adopt an Ethics Ordinance?



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## McQuillin, Municipal Corporations

- Volume 10, Section 29.97, P. 467 *et seq.*

*“It is well settled that municipal officers cannot be interested in contracts of any character with the municipality.”*

In many states and cities, this has been adopted by statutory or charter provisions, which are, however, mostly declaratory of the rule at common law.

## Article 988, R.C.S. 1925

“No member of the city council, or any other officer of the corporation, shall be directly or indirectly interested in any work, business or contract, the expense, price or consideration of which is paid from the city treasury, or by an assessment levied by an ordinance or resolution of the city council.”

## Article 373, Penal Code

“If any officer of any county, or of any city or town shall become in any manner pecuniarily interested in any contracts made by such county, city or town, through its agents, or otherwise, for the construction or repair of any bridge, road, street, alley or house, or any other work undertaken by such county, city or town, or shall become interested in any bid or proposal for such work or in the purchase or sale of anything made for or on account of such county, city or town, or who shall contract for or receive any money or property, or the representative of either, or any emolument or advantage whatsoever in consideration of such bid, proposal, contract, purchase or sale, he shall be fined not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars.”

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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Use Conference session

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