

ORDINANCE NO. 99-3

FILED  
99 FEB 12 PM 3 01  
MARILYN EDWARDS  
CO. & PROBATE CLERK  
WASHINGTON CO. ARK.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT  
OF THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON,  
STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE  
TO BE ENTITLED:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STANDARDS GOVERNING  
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT.**

**WHEREAS** there are existing state statutes governing ethics in county  
government; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a need to strengthen and clarify such; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a need to set forth ethical standards in  
Washington County for its elected officials to ensure that the rights and property of the  
citizens of Washington County are protected.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS:**

**ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT:** It shall be the sole purpose  
of this Ordinance to establish specific, reasonable, and uniform ethical standards to be  
followed by all elected officials in Washington County as a means of protecting the rights  
and the property of the good citizens of Washington County, Arkansas. It is not the intent  
of this Ordinance to keep an elected official from acting in any legal manner, or accepting  
remuneration set forth in the statutes of the State of Arkansas and intended as  
compensation for their services in their capacity as an elected official.

**ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS:**

***Elected Official:*** The term "elected official" means each and every person  
elected by the voters of Washington County, Arkansas, or otherwise serving in any of the  
following offices: County Judge, County Sheriff, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, County  
Assessor, County Treasurer, County Collector, County Coroner, and Justice of the Peace.

***Family Member.*** The term "family member" means the spouse, father, mother,  
brother, sister, child, and/or step-child of an elected official.

***Profit:*** To benefit financially or personally.

**ARTICLE 3. STANDARDS:** The following are the standards that shall  
govern the behavior of every elected official in certain circumstances:

**Section 1. CONTRACTS:**

- a. No elected official shall profit directly or indirectly from contracts  
with the county *except as allowed by law.*

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- b. No family member shall profit directly from contracts with the county.
- c. No contracts shall be entered into by elected officials when said contract fails to set forth specifically the products or services to be provided under the contract. This includes human service contracts. Said contracts shall provide products or services to the population which would not otherwise be provided by the county in the normal course of business.
- d. No contract shall be let that has not first been offered for competitive bidding pursuant to law.
- e. No contract shall be entered into or renewed without first being reviewed by the county attorney for adherence to the standards set forth in this ordinance. Every contract shall include a signature line for the county attorney. Once affixed to the contract, said signature shall be evidence only of the county attorney's review in accordance with this subsection.
- f. No elected official shall profit directly or indirectly from contracts with the county for a period one (1) year from the date of leaving office, except by a majority vote of the Quorum Court.
- g. No family member shall profit directly from contracts with the County for a period of one (1) year from the date the elected official leaves office.
- h. No contract may be entered into with a third party that employs or otherwise profits any elected official or family member of an elected official.
- i. Any contract entered into in violation of these standards shall be *void ab initio*.

**Section 2. FELONY CONVICTION WHILE IN OFFICE:**

- a. No elected official shall remain in office if convicted of a felony while serving as an elected official. Their term in office shall terminate immediately upon conviction and the office shall be filled according to state law, as soon as is practically possible.

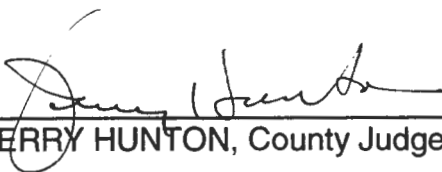
**Section 3. EMPLOYMENT AFTER LEAVING OFFICE:**

- a. No elected official shall be given employment with the county for a period of one (1) year from the date of leaving office except by a majority vote of the Quorum Court.
- b. If an elected official is employed in violation of this section, said elected official shall be liable to the county for any and all monies paid, including any benefits and parts of benefits; and, for attorneys fees and any costs incurred in the process of enforcing this section. Said employment shall be *void ab initio*.

**ARTICLE 4.** This ordinance may be enforced by any remedy available at law or equity.

**ARTICLE 5. SEVERABILITY:** If any part of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

**ARTICLE 6. REPEALER:** All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

  
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JERRY HUNTON, County Judge

2/12/99  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARILYN EDWARDS, County Clerk

Sponsor: Rocky Parsons  
Date of Passage: February 11, 1999  
Votes For: 7 Votes Against: 4  
Abstentions: 2 Assent: 0