



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 026-046
DATE OF PASSAGE July 14, 2026

An Ordinance amending and adding Sections 2-185 and 2-186 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Aurora pertaining to the disclosure of economic interests and campaign-related employment and volunteerism.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in August 1984 the City Council adopted Ordinance O84-4298 prescribing ethical standards for City officers and employees, requiring disclosures of economic interests, and regulating outside employment; and

WHEREAS, the ethics provisions of the City Code have been amended from time to time, including most recently in 2019 and 2022 with Ordinances O19-047 and O22-069; and

WHEREAS, since that time Illinois law regarding the disclosure of economic interests, campaign contributions, and lobbying has evolved significantly, rendering certain provisions of Ordinance O84-4298 as amended duplicative or obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined strengthening local disclosure requirements, clarifying campaign contribution limits, prohibiting lobbyist contributions, and regulating the use of City property and the City seal will enhance transparency, reduce undue influence, and protect City resources; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Code and the authority granted to home rule units, the City Council finds it appropriate to amend Sections 2-185 and 2-186 to the Code of Ordinances to modernize Aurora's ethics framework, as indicated in the Ethics Omnibus Ordinance - Disclosures, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-046
DATE OF PASSAGE July 14, 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the City of Aurora Code of Ordinances is hereby amended, effective immediately, as set forth in Exhibit A, Ethics Omnibus Ordinance - Disclosures, to strengthen the City's ethics provisions regarding disclosure of economic interests and campaign-related employment and volunteerism.

SECTION TWO: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION FOUR: REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-046

LEGISTAR NO. 25-0779

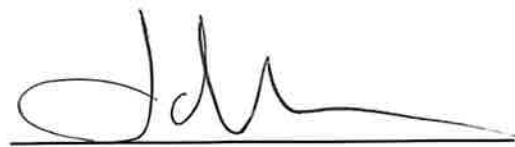
PASSED AND APPROVED ON: July 14, 2026

AYES 6 NAYS 4 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 2

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	absent
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	absent
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	no
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	no
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	no
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	yes
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	no
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	yes

ATTEST:


City Clerk Jennifer Stallings


Mayor John Laesch

AS PASSED**Chapter 2: Administration**

Sec 2-185 Disclosure of Economic Interests and Campaign Finances

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. "Covered person" means a person required under Sec. 4A-101.5 of the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act to file a verified written statement of economic interests with the county clerk with respect to the city, excluding those persons required to file such statement because of their candidacy for election to public office in the city, or their membership on any board or commission of the city. The definition of "Candidate" set forth in Section 15-130 of this Code of Ordinances shall apply to when a person becomes a covered person.

2. "Political Committee" has the same definition as set forth in the Illinois Election Code, 10 ILCS 5/9-1.8, and includes a candidate political committee, a political party committee, a political action committee, a ballot initiative committee, and an independent expenditure committee.

3. "Political Action Committee" or "PAC" shall mean any group, organization, or committee registered under the Illinois Election Code or Federal

AS PASSED

Election Campaign Act that makes contributions, expenditures, or independent expenditures to influence the outcome of an election in the City of Aurora or for candidates for city office.

~~1.4.~~ "Immediate family" means any individual, over the age of 18 years, who resides within the same household as the covered person.

(b) Duty to comply with state law. All covered persons shall file a statement of economic interests in accordance with Illinois Governmental Ethics Act within the time provided by law.

(c) Local disclosure obligations. In addition to the disclosures of economic interests required by state law, each covered person shall disclose the following information:

1. Political committees and PACs. Whether the covered person or immediate family has authorized any political committee or PAC to solicit, receive, and make expenditures in furtherance of their candidacy for any public office; the name of each committee so authorized; and the name of the regulatory agency each committee is registered with.

2. Outside occupation and employment. Whether the covered person or immediate family is engaged in

AS PASSED

any outside occupation or employment currently or in the preceding twelve months; ~~the general nature of such outside occupation or employment;~~ the name of the outside organization employing the covered person, and whether any outside entity disclosed by the covered person is or has been contracted by any person to perform work or services on behalf of the city or has received financial assistance of any kind from the city or any entity providing such assistance on behalf of the city. The obligations of this section do not apply to outside occupations or employment exempted under sec. 2-184(f). Nothing in this section requires the disclosure of names of immediate family members.

3. Ownership of Real Estate. List the city and state of any and all real property located within the corporate limits or unincorporated areas fully bounded by the city corporate limits or the areas within established boundary agreements in which the covered person or immediate family have a direct or indirect ownership or financial interest presently or within the preceding twelve months, and identify the nature of the ownership interest of the real property.

AS PASSED

1 4. Entity Ownership. List any entity in which the
2 covered person or immediate family have an
3 ownership interest valued in excess of \$2,500 or
4 from which the covered person or immediate family
5 receive income in excess of \$2,500 and which is:

6 (i) Presently doing business or has done business
7 during the preceding twelve months with the
8 city, as defined in Sec. 15-130(h) of this
9 Code; or

10 (ii) Has applied to the city for any approval from
11 city council, including but not limited to a
12 license, annexation, zoning, grant, or other
13 authorized approval either presently or during
14 the preceding twelve months.

15 5. City-Funded and City-Affiliated Organizations.
16 List any organization in which the covered person
17 or immediate family is an employee, officer, board
18 member, or trustee that receives funds from the
19 city or has received funds from the city in the
20 preceding twelve months.

21 ~~4.6.~~ Gifts. List any person or entity doing business or
22 having contractual relationship with the city or
23 seeking to do business with the city or any entity
24 which has applied to the city for any license,

AS PASSED

franchise, certificate, annexation, permit, zoning, grant, or incentive, or other authorized approval from whom a covered person or immediate family have received a gift, as defined in Sec. 15-130(m) of this Code, during the preceding twelve months in excess of a cumulative total of \$150.00. For purposes of this section "doing business" and "seeking to do business" shall have the same definitions as Section 15-130(h) of this Code.

(d) Frequency of disclosure; reporting period. The disclosures required of covered persons under paragraph (c) shall be made annually on or before June 1st of the year for the previous twelve (12) months. ~~during the first fifteen (15) days of the months of January, April, July, and October of each calendar year and shall be made with respect to the three (3) months immediately preceding each reporting period.~~ Whenever city offices are closed on the fifteenth day of the reporting period June 1st, the reporting period shall be extended until the next date that city offices are open.

(e) Initial disclosures. Whenever a person first becomes a covered person as defined in this section, such person shall make the disclosures required under paragraph (c) within fifteen (15) days of qualification. The

AS PASSED

disclosures shall be made with respect to the preceding
[twelve \(12\) month](#) period.

(f) Manner of disclosure. All disclosures required under paragraph (c) shall be made electronically in a manner and format approved by the city clerk sufficient to capture and preserve all of the information required under paragraph (c). The city clerk is authorized to approve a reporting format that allows a covered person to satisfy the obligations under this section by confirming that the information previously disclosed during the immediately preceding disclosure period remains unchanged.

(g) Public transparency. The ~~mayer~~[clerk](#) shall cause the information required to be disclosed under this section to be available for public inspection on the city's website along with hyperlinks to [the County Clerk's Office, the Illinois State Board of Elections, and the Federal Election Commission, or](#) any [future](#) governmental website that provides information as to a covered person's disclosures under the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and to any election authority with which a covered person has established a political committee.

(h) Penalty.

AS PASSED

- 1 1. A covered person who willfully fails to make the
2 disclosures required by this section within the
3 time set forth by statute or herein, shall, in
4 addition to the penalties provided by law or
5 ordinance, be subject to a civil penalty of \$100,
6 with each day of non-compliance constituting a
7 separate violation.
- 8 2. A covered person who willfully provides false
9 information as part of a disclosure required by
10 this section, shall in addition to the penalties
11 provided by ordinance, be subject to a civil
12 penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than
13 \$5,000.