

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen
Anne's
County*

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The Ethics Commission

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Advisory Opinion Issued on August 20, 2007

A situation in which a member of the Queen Anne's County Commission on Aging holds a position as Senior Outreach Coordinator for the campaign of a candidate running for Congress presents at least an appearance of conflict of interest. The Commission determined that this relationship violates the Conflict of Interest section of the Queen Anne's County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-11A(7).

- Section 8-4 indicates that the County Public Ethics Law applies to conduct in which performance of County business "is subject to improper influence or even the appearance of improper influence."
- The standard for determining whether a situation presents an appearance of a conflict of interest is: Could an informed member of the public reasonably believe that there is a conflict of interest?
- An informed member of the public could reasonably believe that the prestige of this County commission member's office and/or confidential information learned in the course of acting in the commission member's office would be used for the commission member's private gain or that of the candidate.