

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish written guidelines regarding the conflict of interest law which governs the acceptance of gifts.

II. POLICY

The State Ethics Commission is an administrative law agency which provides advice, education and enforcement of the conflict of interest law Mass General Law Chapter 268A and 268B.

Anything of a substantial value given or received for or because of an official action, or an action under the public employee's official responsibility performed or to be performed, may be considered a violation of the conflict of interest law. Although there is a \$50 aggregate threshold for gifts, anything of value given or received, directly or indirectly, may potentially be viewed as a conflict.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Town of Southborough, that no employee, town volunteer, or town official (elected or appointed) may accept any gift, other than home baked goods, no matter the type of gift or the value. This policy does not apply for donations to departments (i.e. donation to the fire dept, ambulance fund, PILOT payments etc. that are approved by the Board of Selectmen).