

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-11

(Ethics, Open Government, and Preventing Sexual Harassment)

WHEREAS, maintaining the highest standards of ethics and integrity among public officials and employees is essential to maintaining the public's trust in the operations of government; and

WHEREAS, public officers and employees hold their positions not for their own benefit but for the benefit of the public for which they serve; and

WHEREAS, the public's confidence in the integrity of government must be maintained by prescribing clear restrictions against conflicts of interest without creating unreasonable or unnecessary barriers for the most qualified individuals to serve and fulfill their public duties; and

WHEREAS, this state has also made a commitment within its Constitution and statutes to provide unprecedented public access to the records and proceedings of state and local government; and

WHEREAS, providing the utmost transparency fosters a trust in government that ensures the accountability of government and the proper management and expenditure of every taxpayer dollar; and

WHEREAS, my administration has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment or misconduct of any kind within the workplace; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to ensuring that the Executive Office of the Governor and all state agencies provide a working environment that is free from sexual harassment, and implementing uniform sexual harassment reporting and investigation practices among state agencies is essential to promoting the goal of eradicating sexual harassment and misconduct from government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, pursuant to Article IV, section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution and all other applicable laws, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby direct the immediate adoption and implementation of a revised Code of Ethics applicable to the Executive Office of the Governor. This revised Code of Ethics applies to all employees within the Executive Office of the Governor, as well as all agency heads, deputy agency heads, and chiefs of staff at executive branch agencies headed by an official serving at the pleasure of the Governor. This Code of Ethics shall impose clear, understandable standards that in many instances will go beyond the statutory Code of Ethics for public officers and employees in Chapter 112, part III, of the Florida Statutes.

The Governor's General Counsel is hereby designated as the Chief Ethics Officer for the Executive Office of the Governor. Each agency head is directed to designate an individual at his or her agency to act as the agency's chief ethics officer.

Each agency head is further directed to immediately evaluate the current ethics policies at their agency and to either adopt the revised Governor's Code of Ethics for their agency or to use it as a standard for adopting an agency code with adjustments made accordingly for the program requirements and variables unique to the agency.

I further direct the Chief Ethics Officer to periodically review and evaluate the Governor's Code of Ethics. The purpose of the periodic review shall be to develop further recommendations as necessary or appropriate to assure that my administration maintains the highest ethical standards for state officials and employees.

Section 2. I hereby re-establish the Governor's Office of Open Government previously established by my predecessors in Executive Order 07-01 and Executive Order 11-03 and affirm my administration's commitment to Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Laws. This Office in coordination with the General Counsel will (1) facilitate Floridians' right to access the public records of the Executive Office of the Governor; (2) establish and maintain a website providing information on readily requesting public records; and (3) provide routine training for employees within the Executive Office of the Governor regarding Florida's public records and sunshine laws.

Further, each agency head in coordination with their agency general counsel shall regularly providing training and guidance for all agency officials and employees regarding compliance with Florida's public records and sunshine laws.

Section 3. I hereby re-adopt Executive Order 17-319 (Preventing Sexual Harassment in State Agencies), and in light of this Order hereby direct all state agencies headed by an official serving at the pleasure of the Governor and request all other state agencies to review its policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment and misconduct to ensure full compliance including training for employees, investigating and resolving complaints, and notification to employees in an effort to create a workplace environment free from sexual harassment and misconduct.

Section 4. All state agencies headed by an official serving at the pleasure of the Governor are hereby directed, and all other state agencies are hereby requested, to provide any assistance necessary to carrying out the principles and directions in this Executive Order.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 8th day of January, 2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2019 JAN - 8 PM 4:49
JERRY A. BELL, CLERK OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA