



P.O. BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27611

(919) 814-3600

<https://ethics.nc.gov/>**March 2024**

It's that time Again...
Annual Statement of Economic Interest (SEI)
Due April 15th



Don't forget, not only is Monday, **April 15, 2024**, Tax Day, but it is also the SEI filing deadline for regular SEI filers and Transportation Advisory Committee ("TAC") members (who also file an RED).

If you are seeking reelection to a covered elected office and filed a 2024 Candidate SEI listing that office and other covered positions held, you are not required to file an additional SEI in 2024.

We encourage you to file your SEI electronically. Ninety percent of filers choose to e-file because e-filing is convenient, fast, and efficient. E-filing provides an immediate confirmation of your filing and ensures that your information is saved for future filings.

In addition, the SEI e-filing system asks a series of questions to automatically determine what type of filing is necessary based on the answers you provide and generates the appropriate completed form at the end of the process (either a No-Change Form SEI or a Long Form SEI). The system even emails a copy of your completed form to you!

If you don't receive a confirmation number as soon as you e-file, you have not successfully submitted your SEI. Please log back into your e-filing account, make sure you completed all sections, and hit the "submit" button.

Let's get started on your e-filing! Here is the link: [NC Ethics Efile - Home Page](#)

We still offer manual filing for those who cannot file electronically but we hope you will give electronic filing a try. Trust us, we're the Ethics Commission. You will be surprised at how easy it really is and who wants the hassle of printing out a manual form and mailing or delivering the original to us!

REMEMBER...



Many SEI questions require that you respond by checking "yes" or "no." It is common for manual filers to miss those questions, requiring resubmission of SEIs and missed deadlines. Not fun. So please make sure you check those boxes and provide the requested details if you check "yes." In addition, remember to sign your SEIs.

OTHER COMMON SEI ERRORS:



- **Income Question:** You should list income sources (not amounts) of over \$5,000. Many select “*I had no reportable income over \$5,000*”, which in some cases is an error. For instance, if you or immediate family members are employed, you most likely have income of \$5,000 or more and need to disclose the source and other details of that income.
- **“Reason for Filing”:** Please respond to this question by listing the covered entities with which you serve, and which require that you file an SEI. Our electronic SEI filing system lists all covered agencies, boards, commissions, community colleges, universities, and TACs, so make the correct selection(s). If you serve on more than one entity, you should list them all on one SEI, to avoid the need for multiple filings.
- **Missing Real Estate Disclosure Form (RED) for RPO/MPO filers:** If you are filing because you serve on a TAC, you must select your TAC as your “Reason for Filing.” Otherwise, the e-filing system will not prompt you to complete a RED.
- **Procrastinators Beware!** Remember that filing your SEI is the law. And it’s important to governmental transparency. So please do not file late, or you could be fined by the Ethics Commission. And we really would rather not fine you friendly folks.



If You Forgot Your Password, Don’t Sweat It!

We get it—you file yearly and it’s a challenge keeping up with passwords, especially those used infrequently. But as long as you know the email address you used to file last year, YOU can reset your password by following this [step by step guide](#).

EASY PEASEY!

The image shows a 'Sign In' form with the following elements: an 'Email' input field, a 'Password' input field, a 'Forgot your password?' link highlighted with a red rectangle, a blue 'Sign in' button, a 'Remember me?' checkbox, a 'Don't have an account?' link, and a grey 'Create Account' button.

If you forgot the email address you used to create your account or can no longer access that account, give us a call and we’ll update your email address. Please do not create another account. Also, if you don’t receive the reset email, please check your spam folder.

FREQUENTLY ASKED SEI QUESTIONS

Q: Who must file an SEI?

A: Members of State boards and the Council of State, legislators, judicial officers (justices, judges, district attorneys, clerks of court), and certain State employees making over \$60,000 must file an SEI. If you filed a 2024 Candidate SEI for reelection to the same office you currently hold and any other covered position you hold, you are not required to file an additional SEI for this year.

Q: Do I have to file if my term on a Board or Commission has expired or will expire before April 15?

A: Maybe. Even if your term has expired or will expire on or before April 15, 2024, you must file an SEI until your replacement is appointed **and** sworn in.

Q: Where Can I Check My Agency or Board's SEI Compliance?

A: You can check compliance, including your SEI filing date and education received date for your board or agency, here: [SEI Compliance Tool](#).

TEST YOUR SEI KNOWLEDGE



Income Disclosure:

If Mr. Smith and his spouse earned a State salary last year, is this considered reportable income?

- Yes, Mr. Smith should report any income over \$5,000 received by him, or his spouse, in response to the income question on the SEI. Although the identity of the employer may have already been listed in response to the employer question at the beginning of the SEI, the income question should also include this information.

Stock Questions:

As of December 31, 2023, Mr. Smith owned stock valued at \$9,600 in GM and \$11,500 in Google. He also owned \$22,700 in a technology-focused mutual fund which holds stock in Apple as well as other technology companies. What should Mr. Smith list in response to the stock question on the SEI?

- Mr. Smith **is not** required to report the GM stock because as of December 31st, it did not meet the \$10,000 reporting threshold for individual stocks.
- Mr. Smith **is** required to report the Google stock because it was over \$10,000 in value as of December 31st.
- Question 3 excludes stocks owned in mutual funds from the reporting requirement. Although the value of Mr. Smith's interest in the technology mutual fund exceeded \$10,000, that interest is not reportable.

Ms. Jones has extensive stock ownership. Can she just list the name of her brokerage company and ask Ethics Commission staff to contact the company for more information?

- No. Each filer is obligated to disclose those interests on their SEI. This enables members of the public and the filer's colleagues to understand the filer's interests in the event there is a potential conflict of interest. Stocks may be listed on the SEI or on an attachment to the SEI. But please don't specify the value or number of shares owned.

HERO CORNER –
Because Ethics Liaisons are our heroes!

Dear Ethics Liaisons,

We greatly value and appreciate your support in assisting the Ethics Commission in ensuring compliance with the State Government Ethics Act. With over 6,500 public officials subject to the SEI filing and ethics education requirements, we cannot achieve full compliance without you keeping us updated on changes to public officials and encouraging those officials to 100% compliance.

As we approach the busiest time of the SEI filing season, we ask that you please check your board, commission, or agency's roster of covered persons on the [compliance report](#). This is a great tool for tracking SEI and education compliance. If the information found on the compliance report is not current or the list of members or employees needs updating, please report any changes on our convenient [webform](#).

Sincerely,

Your Friends at the State Ethics Commission



AND THE NOMINEES FOR THE ROLE OF OUTSTANDING ETHICS LIAISON ARE!!

 **Nan Coulter** – nominated in the role of outstanding ethics liaison for a community college (**Southwestern**). Ms. Coulter's outstanding work includes having her board's 2024 annual SEI filings already completed! Her success can be attributed to her perseverance and dedication to the craft of electronic SEI filing (100% of filers).

 **Lisa Wallace** – nominated in the role of outstanding ethics liaison for a State agency (**Dept. of Public Safety**). Ms. Wallace presented an award-winning performance as an ethics liaison who strives to ensure that all DPS employees meet their ethics requirements. This rising star deserves accolades for always being on cue when the Ethics Commission requests information. Bravo!

 **William Upchurch** – nominated in the role of outstanding ethics liaison for a covered board (**Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**) Mr. Upchurch delivers an inspiring performance as an ethics liaison who cultivates an appreciation of ethics requirements to his agricultural community. Even with his newfound fame we suspect he will remain approachable when Ethics Commission staff seek information.

