

40E-1.1065 Misuse of Public Position.

(1) No District public official, Advisory Board Member or employee shall initiate use of their official District title or District position to influence voters on pending issues unless the Governing Board has adopted an official position on the issue. District public officials, advisory board members and employees may provide factual information based upon District policies, databases, research or other District information sources upon request from the public, to support informing the public with accurate, current, relevant information.

(2) The Chairpersons of the Governing Board and Big Cypress Basin Board serve as elected spokespersons for these bodies and must use the privilege and trust placed in the chairperson position to promote the policies and adopted positions of the Governing Board and the Big Cypress Basin Board, and must not use the position of Chairperson to represent personal positions or interests.

(3) The preceding policies shall not infringe in any way upon the rights of District public officials, advisory board members or employees as responsible citizens to take a personal position on any issues outside of the direct bounds of their responsibilities as District public officials, advisory board members or employees of the District.

(4) Any District public official, advisory board member or employee may comply with this rule by including a disclaimer in any written or oral statements which could reasonably be interpreted to influence voters. The disclaimer should disclose that the statements are not those of the District, but rather that they are statements of the person as a private citizen.

(5) For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Advisory Board" shall mean any advisory board created and appointed by the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board or Basin Board whose sole or primary responsibility is to recommend action or give advice to the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board or Basin Board.

(b) "District public official" shall mean any member of the Basin Board(s) or Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.

Specific Authority 112.311, 112.313(6), 373.044 FS. Law Implemented 112.311, 112.313(6) FS. History—New 10-22-97.