



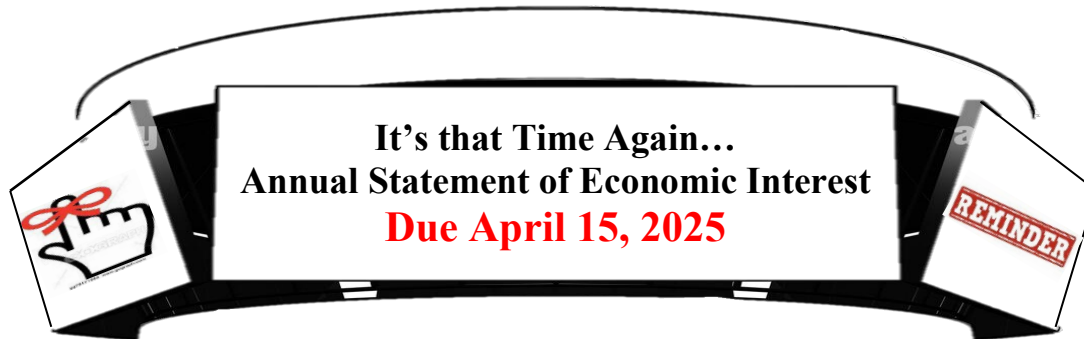
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**SEI Newsletter**

**March 2025**



We don't need to remind you when March Madness begins but we do need to remind you that Tuesday, **April 15, 2025**, is the 2025 Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI") filing deadline for regular SEI filers and Transportation Advisory Committee members (who also file an RED). If you have already filed your 2025 you are ahead of the game!

Also, if you were a State elected official whose service ended last year, you are required to file a post-service 2025 SEI by April 15th.

We encourage you to file your SEI electronically. In 2024, over 90% of SEI filers chose to e-file because e-filing is convenient, fast, and efficient. E-filing provides immediate confirmation of your filing and ensures that your information is saved for future filings.

The SEI e-filing system helps you dribble through a series of questions designed 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.

**The clock's ticking – Make sure your SEI is filed before the final buzzer!** 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. Who wants the hassle of printing out a form and mailing or delivering it to us?



## Common SEI errors:



- **Paper/Manual filers:** You must answer all required questions and check the applicable boxes, or your SEI will be rejected as incomplete, and you will need to refile.
- **Income Question:** You should list income sources (not amounts) of over \$5,000. Some filers select “*I had no reportable income over \$5,000*” which in some cases is an error. For instance, if you or immediate family members were employed, you most likely had income of \$5,000 or more and need to disclose it.
- **Missing Real Estate Disclosure Form (RED) for RPO/MPO filers:** If you are filing because you are serving on an MPO/RPO Transportation Advisory Committee,

you must select your TAC as your “Reason for Filing.” Otherwise, the e-filing system will not prompt you to complete a RED. Manual filers, make sure your SEI and RED is included, download it from [MPO/RPO TAC Filers](#).

- **Reason for Filing** During the e-filing process, keep in mind the *Reason for Filing* questions apply to positions you hold which require that you file an SEI.

**Example A.** - You are a professor at a university, but the reason why you are required to file an SEI is because you are currently serving or being considered to serve on the Plant Conservation Board. You would ONLY select the Board as your reason for filing.

**Example B.** – You are a **covered** employee with the Department of Justice, and you serve on the Dispute Resolution Commission. You would select BOTH the agency AND the Board.

If you are required to file for more than one entity, you should list them all on one SEI, to avoid the need for multiple filings.



## Frequently Asked SEI Question

**Q: Who must file an SEI?**

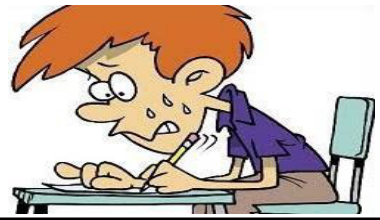
**A:** Members of State boards, the Governor’s Cabinet, and the Council of State; legislators; judicial officers (justices, judges, district attorneys, clerks of court), and certain State employees making over \$60,000 must file a 2025 SEI, along with elected State officials who left office in 2024.

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

**A:** It depends. Even if your term has expired or will expire on or before April 15, 2025, 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 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, 2024, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 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!*

***Hello, is it you we're looking for?***

Yes, if you are an ethics liaison!

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,

*Aaron, Angela, David, Kathy, Katie,  
Jameson, Jane, Mary, Susy, and Tracey*

Your Friends at the State Ethics Commission.



**AND THE NOMINEES FOR MOST VALUABLE PLAYER ARE!!**

**Scarlett Hargis** is a star player with the Office of the Governor. When we pass the ball to her, she shoots back the information we need for our records. Sports analysts predict the odds are good that Scarlett will lead her team to complete ethics compliance!

**Elizabeth Hawley** is not only the point guard for the State Treasurer's team but also for several boards and commissions. She leads the fast break to score the information we need and energizes her team to file their SEIs on time. That's a slam-dunk!

**Steven Oberhausen** is an MVP with the Department of Public Instruction. When there are rotations in the DPI team, he uses the full-court press to retrieve details and motivate his team to meet their ethics requirements. – Way to go!