Merom Brachman, Chairman Maryann B. Gall, Vice Chair Bruce E. Bailey Betty Davis Michael A. Flack

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February 25, 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ONLINE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING

The Ohio Ethics Commission announced that public officials and employees who are required to file annual financial disclosure statements now have the option to file electronically.

"Financial disclosure helps public officials and employees avoid conflicts of interest," said Executive Director Paul M. Nick. "The Commission is pleased to further assist our filers by offering choices for submitting the form."

A financial disclosure statement is a statement of personal financial interests which certain public officials must annually file. The form includes information such as sources of income, sources of gifts, debtors, creditors, and investments. Approximately 11,000 public officials and employees are required to file disclosure statements each year.

Until this year, the form could only be submitted to the Ethics Commission in paper format. With today's unveiling of the online filing system, filers can now choose to file in paper format or electronically through the Ethics Commission's <u>web site</u>. Statutorily-mandated filing fees also can be submitted online with the form.