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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ohio Ethics Commission Issues Surplus Property Advisory Opinion

At its meeting on October 5, 2026, the Ohio Ethics Commission approved [Formal Advisory Opinion 2026-02](#), clarifying when public officials and employees may purchase items offered for sale by a public agency as surplus property.

The opinion concludes that a public official or employee may purchase surplus property from a public agency if three conditions are met:

- The official or employee was not involved in any way in matters related to the sale of the items;
- The official or employee did not use his or her public position, authority, or influence to secure the items; and
- The official or employee was not privy to confidential information related to the sale or the items being offered.

The Commission has previously issued similar advisory opinions that considered the Ohio Ethics Law's public contract provisions. The new opinion addresses additional provisions, including conflicts of interest and protections concerning confidential information.

"The Ethics Law helps ensure that public decisions are objective and made with the public's best interest in mind," said Ohio Ethics Commission Executive Director Paul Nick. "This opinion provides important safeguards to ensure that public officials and employees do not misuse their public position or influence to obtain an improper advantage when an agency sells surplus property."

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