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## State Board of Elections and State Ethics Commission Merged into One New State Board

On June 1, 2017, a panel of superior court judges dismissed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Session Law 2017-6, the <u>state law</u> creating the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement (State Board). The new State Board merges the N.C. State Board of Elections and the N.C. State Ethics Commission and assumes duties formerly overseen by these two agencies, along with lobbying compliance carried out by the Secretary of State. Though parties to the lawsuit may seek additional review on appeal, for now, the consolidated State Board is the agency to enforce North Carolina's elections, ethics and lobbying laws.

Currently, the ethics staff and the election staff of the State Board are housed in different buildings. However, the goal is for all staff to be housed in one building by September 1, 2017. So, the ethics staff will be moving soon, but until then we will remain at our present location at 424 North Blount Street in Raleigh and our direct telephone number remains 919-814-3600.

Although the State Board is a new entity, the State Government Ethics Act (Ethics Act) remains in effect and applies to the same individuals as it did prior to this merger. The duties and obligations of the Ethics Act remain, including the SEI filing requirements and the Ethics Education training requirements. In addition, the duties of Agency Heads, including Board Chairs, and those of Ethics Liaisons remain the same.

If you have questions or need additional help, please feel free to contact us at 919.814.3600

Sue Lundberg, Education Attorney - Gretchen Aycock, SEI Attorney