Local Government **BOARD**BUILDERS

A Model Code of Ethics for North Carolina Local Elected Officials

With Guidelines and Appendixes

A. Fleming Bell, II



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About the Series

Local Government Board Builders offers local elected leaders practical advice on how to effectively lead and govern. Each of the booklets in this series provides a topic overview, specific tips on effective practice, and worksheets and reflection questions to help local elected leaders improve their work. The series focuses on common activities for local governing boards, such as selecting and appointing committees and advisory boards, planning for the future, making better decisions, improving board accountability, and effectively engaging stakeholders in public decisions.

Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw, lecturer in public administration and government at the UNC School of Government, is the series editor.

The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill works to improve the lives of North Carolinians by engaging in practical scholarship that helps public officials and citizens understand and improve state and local government. Established in 1931 as the Institute of Government, the School provides educational, advisory, and research services for state and local governments. The School of Government is also home to a nationally ranked graduate program in public administration and specialized centers focused on information technology, environmental finance, and civic education for youth.

As the largest university-based local government training, advisory, and research organization in the United States, the School of Government offers up to 200 courses, seminars, and specialized conferences for more than 12,000 public officials each year. In addition, faculty members annually publish approximately fifty books, book chapters, bulletins, and other reference works related to state and local government. Each day that the General Assembly is in session, the School produces the *Daily Bulletin*, which reports on the day's activities for members of the legislature and others who need to follow the course of legislation.

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Acknowledgments

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Kathy Young, clerk to the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners
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Because of the nature of this type of project, I have not been able to include in the final publication every suggestion and idea proposed. However, I have tried to consider all of them carefully. In particular, I have sought to honor the committee's primary goal—to produce a legally sound, understandable, and practical guidebook for North Carolina local elected officials. Any shortcomings and mistakes in the final product are of course my responsibility.

I hope the officials for whom the guidebook is intended will consider its ideas carefully and that they will find it a useful resource as they prepare their own codes of ethics.

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