



I. Purpose

To establish a procedure for bidders/proposers/protestors or individuals acting on their behalf after issuance of a solicitation.

II. Scope

This procedure will apply to all methods of source selection.

III. Conduct of Participants

After the issuance of any solicitation, all bidders/proposers/protestors or individuals acting on their behalf are hereby prohibited from **lobbying** as defined herein or otherwise attempting to persuade or influence any elected County officials, their agents or employees or any member of the relevant selection committee at any time during the **blackout period** as defined herein; provided, however, nothing herein shall prohibit bidders/proposers/protestors or individuals acting on their behalf from communicating with the purchasing staff concerning a pending solicitation unless otherwise provided for in the solicitation or unless otherwise directed by the purchasing manager.

IV. Definitions

Blackout period means the period between the time the bids/proposals for Invitations for Bid or the Request for Proposal, or Qualifications, or Information, or Requests for Letters of Interest, or the Invitation to Negotiate, as applicable, are received at the Escambia County Office of Purchasing and the time the Board awards the contract and any resulting bid protest is resolved or the solicitation is otherwise canceled.

Lobbying means the attempt to influence the thinking of elected County officials, their agents or employees or any member of the relevant Selection Committee for or against a specific cause related to a pending solicitation for goods or services, in person, by mail, by facsimile, by telephone, by electronic mail, or by any other means of communication.

V. Sanctions

The Board may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a nonemployee for violations of the policy set forth herein:

- (a) Rejection/disqualification of submittal
- (b) Termination of contracts; or
- (c) Suspension or debarment as provided in Sec. 46-102 of the Escambia County Code of Ordinances.

This policy is not intended to alter the procedure for Protested Solicitations and Awards as set forth in the Sec. 46-101 of the Escambia County Code of Ordinances.