



Published on *Vermont League of Cities and Towns* (<https://www.vlct.org>)

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Chart of Incompatible Offices

This chart provides an easy to follow diagram for municipal officials to identify municipal roles and relationships that create positional conflicts. This poster prints on 8.5" x 14" (legal size) paper.

In recognition of the principle that the aggregation of political power may result in diminished citizens' freedoms, the Legislature has prescribed a list of incompatible offices. The general statute concerning incompatible town offices is 17 V.S.A. § 2647. Even though it generally does not apply in a town with 25 or fewer legal voters, there is an exception that "an auditor [or the auditor's spouse] shall not audit his own accounts kept and rendered in some other official capacity." 17 V.S.A. § 2648. It should also be noted that the statute does not prohibit one from running for two incompatible offices. For example, one person may simultaneously run for the office of treasurer and auditor, but if elected to both positions, must resign from one office before commencing duties in the other.

Finally, while the incompatible office statute does not mention romantic cohabitants or civil union partners, the intimacy of such relationships would necessarily imply that the same prohibitions apply to these relationships as well.

Documents:

 [Incompatible Offices Chart.pdf](#) [1]

Links:

[Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Page](#) [2]

Publication Date:

Monday, June 18, 2018

Resource Category:

- Guidance
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Links

[1] <https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/Incompatible%20Offices%20Chart.pdf>

[2] <https://www.vlct.org/municipal-assistance/municipal-topics/ethics-and-conflict-interest>