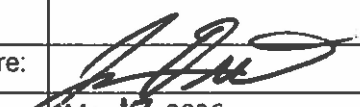


**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST  
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY  
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | James Ostis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Title or Position:                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chief of Staff to State Senator Vanna Howard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| State Agency:                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Massachusetts State Senate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Agency Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | State House<br>24 Beacon Street, Room 109-E<br>Boston, MA 02133                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Office Phone:                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 617-722-1630                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Office E-mail:                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | James.Ostis@masenate.gov                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>PARTICULAR MATTER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Particular matter<br><br>E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding. | Please describe the particular matter.<br><br>The Senate will be considering the fiscal 2027 Senate Budget, for which Senator Howard filed an amendment supporting the Lowell Festival Foundation (the "Foundation") in the city of Lowell for the Lowell Folk Festival.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Your required participation in the particular matter:<br><br>E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other.                                                                         | Please describe the task you are required to perform with respect to the particular matter.<br><br>As Senator Howard's Chief of Staff, among other things, I advise the Senator on the Senate Budget and any amendments filed to the budget.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Write an X by all that apply.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial interest in the matter.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter.<br><input type="checkbox"/> My business partner has a financial interest in the matter.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee of a business organization, and the business organization has a financial interest in the matter.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter. |
| Financial interest in the matter                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                     | I serve on the volunteer advisory council for the Lowell Festival Foundation, this mission of which is to enrich the cultural life of Greater Lowell through inclusive festivals and programs such as the Lowell Folk Festival, a free event that is a boon for tourism and the local economy in the city of Lowell. The Foundation's financial interests may be affected by the above-identified amendment should it become law. |
| Employee signature: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Date:               | May 12, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

|                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             | <b>APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Name of Appointing Authority:                                               | Vanna Howard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Title or Position:                                                          | State Senator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Agency/Department:                                                          | Massachusetts State Senate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Agency Address:                                                             | State House<br>24 Beacon Street, Room 109-E<br>Boston, MA 02133                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Office Phone:                                                               | 617-722-1630                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Office E-mail                                                               | <a href="mailto:Vanna.Howard@masenate.gov">Vanna.Howard@masenate.gov</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                             | <b>DETERMINATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Determination by appointing authority:<br><br>Write an X by your selection. | As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee.<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or<br><input type="checkbox"/> I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee. |
| Appointing Authority signature:                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Date:                                                                       | May 18, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Comment:                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108