



John A. Carey  
Inspector General

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PALM BEACH COUNTY

OIG TIPS AND TRENDS #2024-0001  
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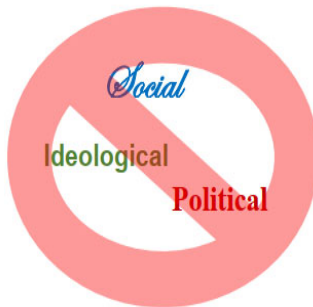


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### Prohibition against Considering Social, Political, or Ideological Interests in Government Contracting

On May 2, 2023, the Governor signed Florida House Bill 3 “Government and Corporate Activism” into law.<sup>1</sup> The bill, which became effective July 1, 2023, created section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, which prohibits consideration of social, political, or ideological interests in state and local government contracting. Section 287.05701:

- Defines the term “awarding body” for local government contracts as the governing body of a county, municipality, special district, or any other political subdivision of the state;
- Prohibits an awarding body from requesting documentation of or considering a vendor’s social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor;
- Prohibits an awarding body from giving preference to vendors based upon their social, political, or ideological interests; and
  - Requires that all solicitations for commodities or contractual services include a provision notifying vendors of these requirements.



#### Recommendations

Section 287.05701 creates statutory requirements that must be followed when soliciting for the procurement of commodities or contractual services. Local governments should review their policies and procedures to ensure a vendor’s social, political, or ideological beliefs are not considered as a factor for award or in determining vendor responsibility.

We recommend that government entities:

- Review policies and procedures to ensure compliance with section 287.05701.
- Consult legal counsel about the new law.

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 2023-28, Laws of Florida.

*“Enhancing Public Trust in Government”*