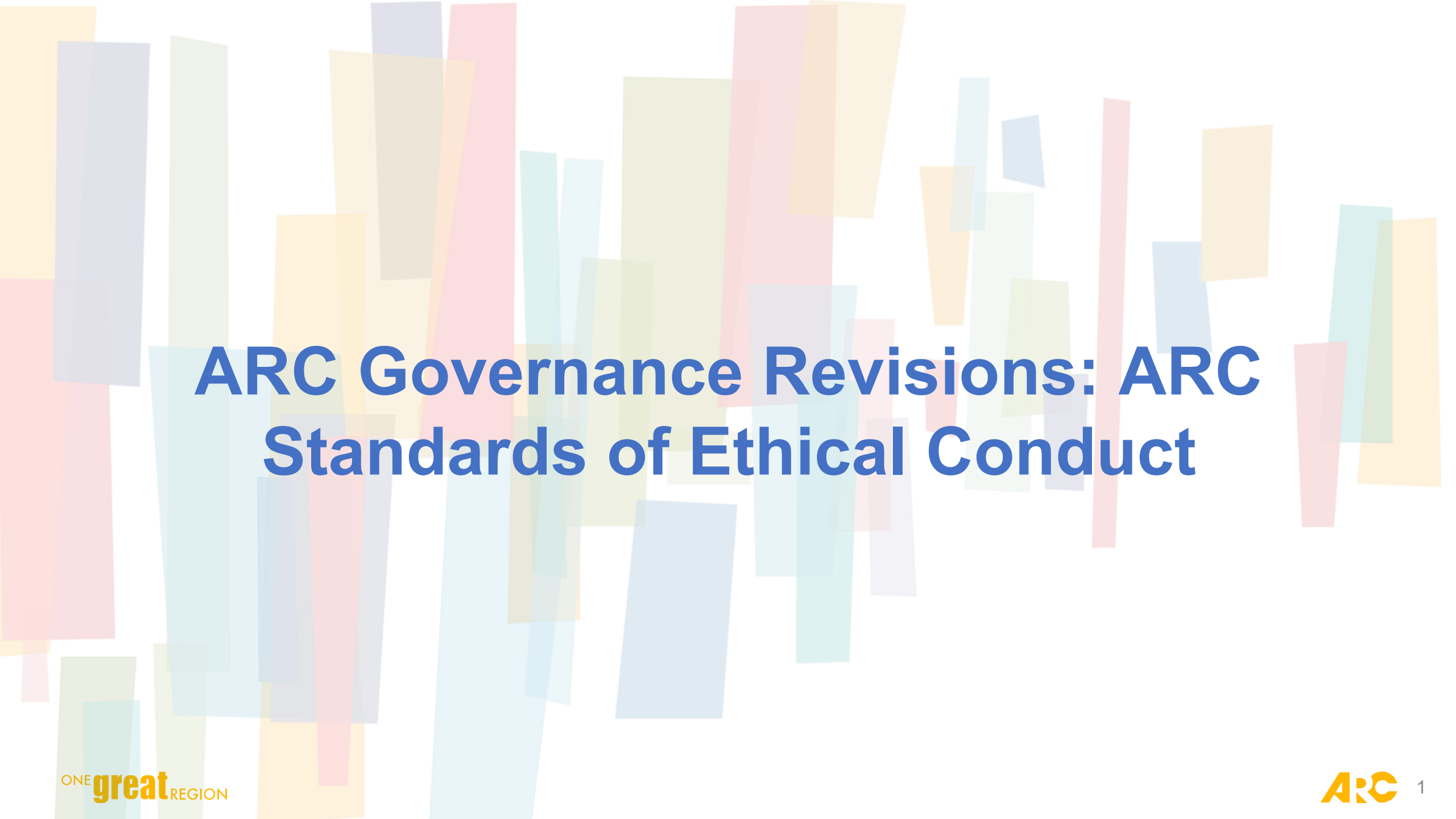
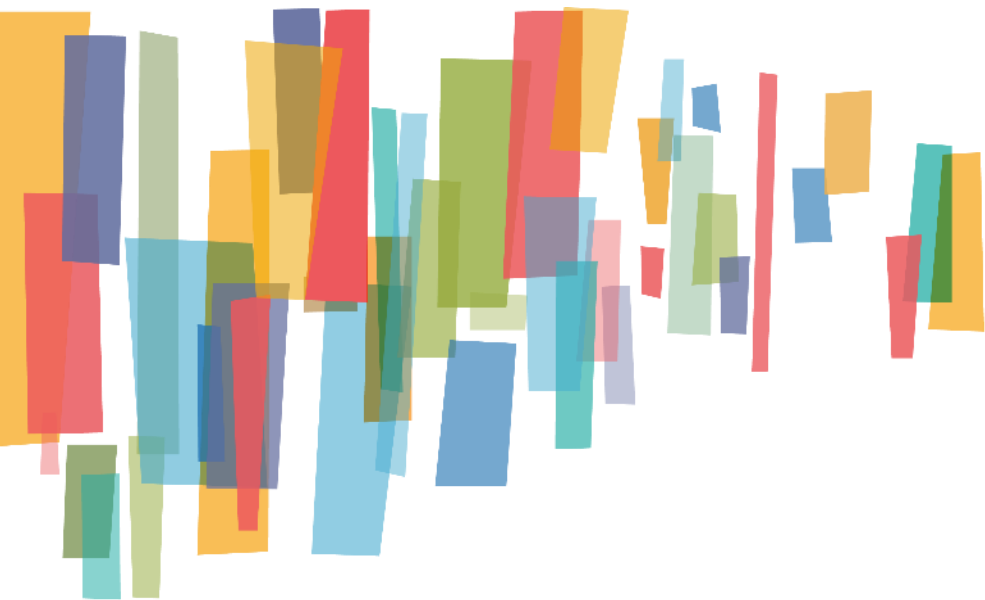




ARC Governance Revisions: ARC Standards of Ethical Conduct



Standards of Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy

ARC Board | First Read

September 9, 2026

Eric D. Johnson, Chief Legal and External Affairs Officer

Why this work matters

Trust in ARC's work is critical to Metro Atlanta. We earn that trust through our conduct, acting with integrity and raising conflicts early.



Public funds, public trust

ARC supports the important planning decisions that shape this region and administers state and federal funding. Our credibility depends on impartiality.



A board built on local service

You serve the region while also serving your own community. Clear standards protect all of us.



A framework due for renewal

The existing policy predates current format, is outdated in places, offers little practical guidance, and some legal requirements have changed.

WHERE THIS DRAFT HAS BEEN



Modification agreed

Changes developed by staff, leadership, and outside counsel



July 13

Ethics Sub-Committee first read and direction



August 12

Governance Committee review; comment period opened and comments received



Today

First read with the full Board

What the policy asks of you

What this means in practice.

1 Advocate for your community

Speaking for your jurisdiction is legitimate and expected. A jurisdictional relationship alone is not a conflict. What the policy focuses on is influencing an ARC decision outside its established process.

2 Disclose when it matters

The annual financial filing with ARC is replaced by disclosure when a conflict actually arises, backed by an annual acknowledgment. Your separate legal obligations are unchanged.

3 Gifts and sponsorships

Nothing from an ARC vendor or applicant. Nominal gifts cap at \$100 per year. Sponsored travel needs prior approval.

4 Ask, and rely on the answer

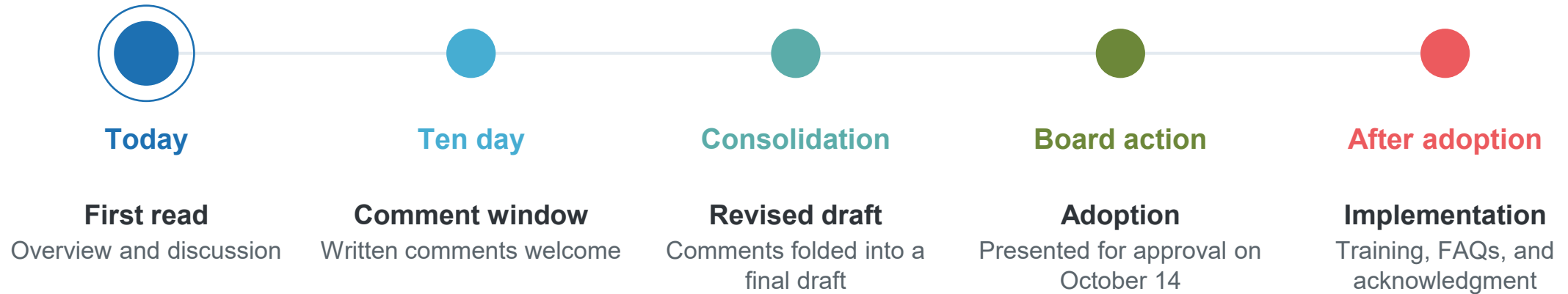
A dedicated ethics inbox for guidance, and good-faith reliance on written guidance protects you.

5 Fair process, in both directions

Concerns can be raised confidentially and without retaliation, with an initial review and an opportunity to respond.

Path forward

Today is a first read. A comment period is open.



Your comments are welcome here or directly to Eric Johnson, Chief Legal and External Affairs Officer, through Friday, September 23 to ejohnson@atlantaregional.org or (404) 939-8773.