

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR BUTLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

PURPOSE

The opportunity to serve the public as county commissioner is a high honor and confers a sacred trust to the office holder. Stewardship of the public trust not only requires allegiance to the law, but also obligates a county commissioner to act in ways consistent with the highest standards of ethical conduct. The following fundamental principles of Transparency, Integrity, Stewardship, and Fairness/Equity are hereby adopted by the Butler County Commissioners.

TRANSPARENCY

- County Commissioners shall be vigorously dedicated to the ideals of honesty, openness and accountability in all matters involving county government.
- County Commissioners shall obey the laws including the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) that applicable to their official actions. County Commissioners shall be guided by the spirit as well as the letter of the law.
- Commissioners understand that they are conducting the public's business and that local government records belong to the public.
- Accountability requires a commissioner to accept responsibility for his or her public conduct as well as the actions of the county commission, especially when a mistake occurs.
- Commission meetings shall be business-like and professional. Robert's Rules of Order is needed and shall be the guide for Parliamentary Procedures in conducting meetings. The Kansas Open Meetings Act always supersedes such guides when there is a conflict between the two. Commissioners recognize that doing so is an important way to be worthy of Public Trust.

INTEGRITY

- The honor of public office requires a commissioner to behave with courtesy and respect for the dignity of others in all public relationships with other elected officials, employees, citizens, media and representatives of other units of government.
- County officials shall act with integrity and independence from improper influence as they exercise the duties of their offices.
- Commissioners shall:

Exert a good faith effort to communicate the full truth about county matters and avoid structuring information so as to mislead others or gain personal advantage.

Abstain from voting even it is not required by law if his or her impartiality might be reasonably questioned.

Neither seeks nor accepts any favor from any source that may be offered to influence his or her official decision making.

- Commissioners have an obligation to report suspected illegal misconduct by another elected official to the proper investigative authorities.

STEWARDSHIP

- Commissioners shall actively practice stewardship of the county's resources.
- Commissioners shall advocate for and encourage county employees to adopt practices that promote the most efficient, effective and ethical county services.
- Commissioners shall strive for excellence and continuous learning in personal development and in all operations of county government.
- Commissioners shall support the principles of equal employment opportunity and vigorously oppose discrimination in county operations.

FAIRNESS/EQUITY

- Commissioner shall exert respect for others and civility in all public relationships and meetings.
- Commissioner shall perform the duties of public office with fairness and impartiality as to enhance public confidence in county government.
- Commissioner shall feel free to assert policy positions and opinions without fear of reprisal from fellow board members or citizens.
- To declare that a Board member is behaving unethically because one disagrees with that official on a question of policy is unfair, dishonest, irresponsible and is, itself, unethical.
- The meetings of the county commissioners shall promote conduct which enhances respectful civic discourse.