

Ethics Pledge

As a candidate for public office in Lake or Porter Counties, Indiana, I recognize the importance of ethics for my own good and well-being and also for the good and well-being of my constituents and the community as a whole. Therefore, as a candidate and if elected, I pledge to abide by the following Code of Ethics:

1. I will uphold the Constitutions, laws, and regulations of the United States of America and the State of Indiana and its subdivisions as I am required to do by my oath of office. In addition, if I become an elected representative of the people, I will adhere to the fundamental principles of representative democracy.
2. I will adhere to the highest level of ethical conduct and place ethics above party loyalty or personal interests and relationships.
3. I will devote the appropriate amount of time to my office, considering whether it is a full-time or part-time position, and in either case will perform my duties based on fundamental values such as competency, equity, truth, and integrity. In the pursuit of these principles, I will work cooperatively with other public officials.
4. I will use my authority to promote the efficient and effective delivery of public services in my realm of responsibility and will avoid participating in any decision where I have a conflict of interest or from which I, my family, or business associates may personally benefit. Where my public responsibilities require my participation, I will publically disclose the nature of my conflict.
5. I will never discriminate unfairly by dispensing special favors or privileges to anyone, whether or not for remuneration, and I will never solicit or accept for myself, my family, or my business and professional associates any favor or benefit that might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of my public duties.
6. I will make no private promises of any kind which may unduly influence my public duties.
7. I will not engage in any business with public agencies that would be -- directly or indirectly -- inconsistent with the conscientious performance of my public duties and I will make no improper use of public property or resources for the personal benefit of myself, my family, or my business and professional associates.
8. I will never use information coming to me confidentially in the performance of my duties as a means for personal profit or other personal advantage.
9. I accept the responsibility to expose corrupt practices whenever they come to my attention and will, where empowered to do so, protect from retaliation any public employee who has exposed corrupt practices.
10. I solemnly pledge to uphold these principles, ever mindful that public office is a public trust.

I willingly acknowledge my belief in and commitment to this Ethics Pledge and if elected, I further agree to require all employees over whom I have supervision to adhere to this Pledge. All this I commit to this ____ day of _____, 2004.

(Signature)