

1. Act in the best interest of York County citizens.
2. Be transparent in conduct of county business.
3. Be honest and truthful.
4. Act with integrity and honor.
5. Treat others with kindness and deserved respect.
6. Clarity in advocacy.

Code of Ethics for Members of the York County Board of Supervisors

As the elected Supervisors of York County, we commit to uphold the following principles in all of our actions and decisions. Our primary duty is to serve the people of York County, guided by the highest standards of ethical conduct. We recognize that our behavior must inspire public trust and demonstrate our dedication to the common good. This Code of Ethics sets forth the expectations for how we shall conduct ourselves in office:

1. Commitment to the Best Interest of York County Citizens

We pledge to act in the best interest of all citizens of York County, prioritizing the well-being, safety, and prosperity of the community above any personal, political, or financial considerations. Our decisions will be made with fairness and without favor to special interests or political alliances. We will seek to ensure equal treatment and opportunity for every individual and family in the county.

2. Transparency in Conduct of County Business

We are committed to open and transparent governance. To the best of our ability, we will keep the public informed about the decisions we make and the reasoning behind them, ensuring that citizens have access to the information necessary to understand and engage with the actions of local government. Public meetings, records and communications will be handled in a transparent and accessible manner, promoting accountability and fostering trust.

3. Honesty and Truthfulness

We will be truthful in all our interactions and communications, both within the government and with the public. We will provide accurate, complete and timely information to the best of our ability. We will avoid any misrepresentation or deception and will be honest in acknowledging any errors or missteps, working to correct them swiftly and openly.

4. Integrity and Honor

We will conduct ourselves with the highest level of integrity, consistently choosing what is right over what is convenient or self-serving. Our personal actions and public decisions will reflect honesty, fairness and honor. We will adhere to the letter and spirit of the law, avoiding conflicts of interest and never using our position for personal gain. We recognize that maintaining our integrity is fundamental to preserving the public trust.

5. Respect and Kindness in All Interactions

We will treat all individuals—whether constituents, colleagues, or members of the public—with respect, dignity and kindness they deserve. We recognize the importance of fostering an inclusive and civil discourse, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. We will listen attentively to all perspectives and be open to constructive dialogue, even when there are disagreements. Respect for others, including their ideas, beliefs and backgrounds, will guide our actions both in public and private settings.

6. Advocacy Clarity

Board members are expected to advocate for or communicate the official policies or positions of the Board as accurately and faithfully as possible. When a Board member chooses to express a personal opinion, they must explicitly differentiate it from the official position of the Board. This ensures transparency, so that the audience understands that the individual's views are separate from the formal stance of the Board.

By adhering to these principles, we, as the elected Supervisors of York County, pledge to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and to serve the people of our community with dedication, transparency and respect. We will hold ourselves accountable to these standards, striving always to build a government that is trustworthy, effective and worthy of the public's confidence.

This Code of Ethics will serve as a foundation for our decision-making, actions and relationships throughout our term in office.

The Board of Supervisors may impose sanctions on members whose conduct does not comply with the County's ethical standards. These sanctions may include public or private reprimand, formal censure, loss of committee assignment or budget restriction. Where allowed by law, the Board of Supervisors also may remove members of Board-appointed boards, committees and commissions from office. Initiating sanctions action against a Board member without proper justification, with the intent to intimidate, harass or cause harm will result in immediate censure of the initiating party.

A violation of this Code of Ethics shall not be considered a basis for challenging the validity of a Board of Supervisors, committee or commission decision.