

10-25-12-103

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER MAST

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has promulgated a Code of Ethics for County Officials (copy attached) as a reference guide for all those in whom the public has placed its trust; and

WHEREAS, the County of Kent is committed to the highest standards of conduct by and among its officials and employees in the performance of their public duties; and

WHEREAS, this Code has been reviewed by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee, which recommends its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses the principles espoused in the National Association of Counties' Code of Ethics for County Officials and adopts these principles as its own.

PREAMBLE

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is committed to the highest standards of conduct by and among county officials in the performance of their public duties. Individual and collective adherence to high ethical standards by public officials is central to the maintenance of public trust and confidence in government.

While county officials agree on the need for proper conduct, they may experience personal conflict or differing views of values or loyalties.

In such cases, the principles contained in this Code of Ethics provide valuable guidance in reaching decisions which are governed, ultimately, by the dictates of the individual conscience of the public official and his or her commitment to the public good.

Certain of these ethical principles are best expressed as positive statements regarding actions that should be taken, courses that should be followed, and goals for both public and private conduct. Other principles are expressed as negative statements regarding actions to be avoided and conduct to be condemned.

The Code of Ethics for County Officials has been created by and for elected county officials. However, these principles apply to the day-to-day conduct of all elected, appointed, and hired county personnel.

NACo recognizes that this Code of Ethics should serve as a valuable reference guide for all those in whom the public has placed its trust.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The ethical county official should:

- Properly administer the affairs of the county
- Promote decisions that benefit the public interest
- Actively promote public confidence in county government
- Keep safe all funds and other properties of the county
- Conduct and perform the duties of the office diligently, and promptly dispose of the business of the county
- Maintain a positive image to pass public scrutiny
- Evaluate all decisions in a fiscally responsible manner so that the best service or product is obtained without sacrificing quality
- Inject the prestige of the office into everyday dealings with the public, employees and associates
- Maintain a respectful attitude toward employees, other public officials, colleagues and associates
- Effectively and efficiently work with government agencies, political subdivisions and other organizations to further the interest of the county
- Faithfully comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the county, and impartially apply them

The ethical county officials should not:

- Engage in outside interest that are not compatible with the impartial and objective performance of his or her duties
- Improperly influence or attempt to influence other officials to act in his or her own benefit
- Accept anything of value from any source which is offered to influence his or her action as a public official
- The ethical county official accepts the responsibility that his or her mission is that of public service and stewardship.