



Antis Township Protocol on Conduct by Elected Officials

Antis Township elected officials believe that there is no higher calling than public service. To that end, the Township's elected officials share a common bond regardless of party or political consideration and establish this statement of protocol which shall govern the conduct and behavior of all elected officials and establish recommendations for those running for office in the township.

The foremost goal of all Antis Township elected officials must be to promote, protect and preserve the community at large. We recognize that no one person, no single group and no separate entity is greater or more worthy of advancement than the whole community of Antis Township.

Officials recognize that politics is a necessary part of the process initially but that once the political function is completed the governing function must take precedence in order to move the township forward. Antis Township elected officials agree that the political debate requires a respect for the right of an individual to run for and attain office regardless of the positions he or she holds. This concept of honest debate carries into the office that he or she holds recognizing that policy discussions and implementation do not come at the cost of engendering disrespect among colleagues and do not include personal attacks as part of promoting what one believes to be in the best interest of Antis Township.

This code is therefore established to encourage a higher standard of behavior among all Antis Township elected officials so as to provide a higher level of public confidence in township government and guide elected officials in making decisions and interacting with public and each other.

1. Whatever personal disagreements I have had with other elected officials, whether imposed upon me by others or inflicted by me on others, ended with the adoption of this protocol and a clean slate exists with my fellow elected officials so that together promote the principles noted here.
2. I recognize that all of my fellow officials share a common bond with me that is unique to the American political system and seek and hold office in order to serve, maintain and improve the Township of Antis regardless of the views each holds and regardless of whether I agree with those views and opinions.

3. I recognize that following the dignity of a fellow official to be sullied or denigrated by others serves to reduce the dignity and respect for my position as well. My actions and words will reflect the tone and dignity with which I wish to be treated.
4. I will treat others with respect even though I may have serious disagreements. That means that the tone of my voice and my words will be used only to explain my position on matters and not to disparage others or impose my will.
5. Should I run for office against a fellow official or support others who may oppose a fellow official I will do so with respect, courtesy and dignity and will refrain from innuendo, half-truths and distortion. I will encourage those running for office to follow these values as well. Further I will encourage those running for office to educate themselves on the workings of the township in advance of seeking public office and participate in any orientation by the manager and staff.
6. I will not allow others who may have a disagreement with a fellow official to attempt to influence me nor will I listen to or spread the words of anyone, be they employee, citizen, the media or other, which impugns the dignity or integrity of a fellow official and will request that any such individual or group bring matters of disagreement to the official in question.
7. I will only seek to make decisions that serve to further the best interests of the Township of Antis and to that end will not allow partisanship to enter into my decision making.
8. I approach my work informed of issues, enthusiastic, energized, interested, ready to participate, and focused. I prepare by reading agendas and other material before meetings and asking the staff ahead of time for informational questions to assist my preparation. In meetings and otherwise, I ask relevant questions that will advance the discussion and assist decision-making.
9. I respect the manager's position as an apolitical, nonpartisan employee. I will allow the manager to do his or her job and refrain from involving him or her in a disagreement with another official. Further I assume that the manager's recommendations, actions, and ideas are made after careful consideration and regardless of who may support a particular side and is done so only in the best interests of Antis Township.

Approved: