

# Ethics in Public Service

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Do we have a problem with Ethics in our Society/Community?

- You be the judge
- What do you hear about at work, in your personal life
- Local, State, Federal

Grade yourself

- What is your ethical score today (out of 100)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you commit to improving that by at least 1% in the next year? \_\_\_\_\_
- Take a minute to think about all of the ethics violations you have seen or read about in the media.
- Who has the 5, 10, 20+?

Is this an issue?

- Idaho lawmaker welcomes ethics investigation
- Could Sen. McGee's arrests affect his political career?
- FEC: Craig ignored warnings, spent money illegally
- Former jail deputy out on bond after arrest for sexual contact with inmate
- Former Notus clerk accused of stealing \$57K in public funds
- Idaho lawmaker Mark Patterson could lose weapons license over old Florida guilty plea

Duties of the State Controller (State website)

The state controller is the chief fiscal officer of the state of Idaho, responsible for:

- Maintaining all accounting and financial records
- Paying all the state's bills and employees
- Preparing the state's annual financial report
- Operating the state's Computer Service Center

Ethics, what are they?

- Are you an example of power? Or are you the power of example?
- What is ethics? Ethics is our moral compass and values that guide our decision making and action
- Ethics~ is not laws; laws are ever changing (Colorado and Washington)
- Not religion, we have more religion than I can count
- Not Psychology-the study of the mind or behavior



## Ethics in Public Service

- Public trust is questioned every day
- If you violate that, the ripple effect is everlasting for you, agency, peers, government
- Philosophy-The study of thought
- Wisdom-Wise practice and ideas “Principles in practice”

## So what are principles?

- Principles are timeless, unchanging truths
- Principles are concepts, ideas, and realities that serve as foundations for belief systems Covey...

## Ethics Video (2:30 minutes)

### Things to remember

- Am I doing this at the RIGHT time, in the RIGHT way, for the RIGHT reason?
- Good decisions are ethical and effective
- Recognize important decisions and make the right one
- Remember what is at stake
- Don't play with fire
- Help each other out (See something, say something)

### Quotes

- "Relativity applies to physics, not ethics." - Albert Einstein
- "A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality." - John F. Kennedy
- "Ethics must begin at the top of an organization. It is a leadership issue and the chief executive must set the example." - Edward Hennessy (1933 - ), Philanthropist and Retired Chairman and CEO of AlliedSignal Inc.
- "I consider ethics, as well as religion, as supplements to law in the government of man." Thomas Jefferson

Van Deusen, “there is no politics in good accounting.” Clarence Van Deusen (1917-1919 Idaho State Controller)

