

# *County of Middlesex Board of Supervisors*



## *Standards of Conduct*

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Recognizing that persons holding a position of public trust are under constant observation by the media and interested County residents, and recognizing that maintaining the integrity and dignity of the public office is essential for maintaining high levels of public confidence in our institutions of government, every member of the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors should adhere to the following Standards of Conduct.

1. Avoid the use of abusive, threatening or intimidating language or gestures directed at colleagues, citizens, or personnel during public meetings and during the performance of public duties.
2. Pay all taxes due to the County, state, or national government.
3. Avoid a private lifestyle that casts public doubt upon the integrity and competence of the County Government.
4. Make a conscientious effort to be well prepared for each meeting.
5. Avoid offering public criticism of colleagues or County employees, recognizing the dignity of each individual.
6. Work to create a positive environment in public meetings where citizens will feel comfortable in their roles as observers or participants.
7. Maintain an attitude of courtesy and consideration toward all colleagues and staff during all discussions and deliberations.
8. Be tolerant. Allow citizens, employees, or colleagues sufficient opportunity to present their views.
9. Be respectful and attentive. Avoid comments, body language or distracting activity that conveys a message of disrespect for the presentations from citizens, personnel or colleagues.
10. Be concise. Avoid the practice of taking more time to address an issue before the body than is necessary and essential for an adequate consideration of those matters being discussed.
11. Communicate directly with the County Administrator, County Attorney, department directors, and/or the Chair of the Board on County matters to enhance communication between staff and the Board of Supervisors.
12. Avoid the use of electronic devices during Board meetings to communicate with others regarding county business.