

American Society for Public Administration

Code of Ethics¹

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) advances the science, art, and practice of public administration. The Society affirms its responsibility to develop the spirit of *responsible* professionalism within its membership and to increase awareness *and commitment to ethical principles and standards among all those who work in public service in all sectors*. To this end, we, the members of the Society, commit ourselves to uphold the following principles:

1. **Advance the Public Interest.** *Promote the interests of the public and put service to the public above service to oneself.*
2. **Uphold the Constitution and the Law.** Respect and support government constitutions and laws, while *seeking to improve laws and policies to promote the public good.*
3. **Promote democratic participation.** *Inform the public and encourage active engagement in governance. Be open, transparent and responsive, and respect and assist all persons in their dealings with public organizations.*
4. **Strengthen social equity.** *Treat all persons with fairness, justice, and equality and respect individual differences, rights, and freedoms. Promote affirmative action and other initiatives to reduce unfairness, injustice, and inequality in society.*
5. **Fully Inform and Advise.** *Provide accurate, honest, comprehensive, and timely information and advice to elected and appointed officials and governing board members, and to staff members in your organization.*
6. **Demonstrate personal integrity.** *Adhere to the highest standards of conduct to inspire public confidence and trust in public service.*
7. **Promote Ethical Organizations:** *Strive to attain the highest standards of ethics, stewardship, and public service in organizations that serve the public.*
8. **Advance Professional Excellence:** Strengthen personal capabilities to act competently and ethically and encourage the professional development of others.

A separate document contains practices that serve as a guide to behavior for members of ASPA in carrying out its principles.

¹ Changes from the 1994 Code are *italicized*.