



# Americans for Decency in Government

## Introduction to the Patriots Pledge

[www.decencyingov.org](http://www.decencyingov.org)

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### ADG's Vision

More effective, trustworthy government at every level, and a public less divided by politics.

### ADG Believes That When Officials Act With Decency:

- Government effectiveness and public trust in government increase.
- Unhealthy partisan divisions decrease.

### The Patriot's Pledge

- Is a voluntary commitment to make a good-faith effort to act with honor, respect, and integrity.
- Is not about party, ideology, or the positions officials take, only how they strive to serve.

### The Value of Signing

- **Meets your constituents where they are.** Across the political spectrum, people are hungry for leaders who will lower the temperature and focus on solving problems instead of stoking conflict. The Pledge lets you answer that hope directly. Signing tells constituents you understand what they actually want from government and are willing to commit to it in public, giving people something to vote for rather than against.
- **Separates you from the politics fueling public distrust.** Much of today's political behavior, the insults, the bad faith, the treating opponents as enemies, has left voters exhausted and distrustful. The Pledge is a clear, public break from that pattern. Your signature draws a visible line between you and the conduct constituents regularly see, and that contrast is often what earns a second look from independents and skeptics.
- **Earns a credential you can point to.** Your signature becomes part of a public record you can cite in campaign materials, on your website, and at re-election time. When voters are deciding whom to trust, a concrete commitment they can look up carries more weight than a promise made on the trail.
- **Sets the tone for those around you.** Signing is not only a personal commitment; it is a signal to your colleagues, staff, and community about the kind of conduct you expect and model. Officials who sign tend to be remembered as the ones who raised the bar, and that example can shape how a council, a delegation, or a whole town, county or state conducts itself. Leadership of that kind is its own form of influence.
- **Carries little political risk.** The Pledge asks only for a good-faith effort to treat people decently and govern honestly, standards most constituents already expect of you. It commits you to no ideology, no bill, and no policy position, so there is no political ground to defend by signing. There is little to nothing to lose, and real goodwill to gain.

*The leaders people follow are the ones who stand for something. Sign the Pledge and be one of them.*



# Patriot's Pledge of Basic Human Decency

*As a public official, I acknowledge that for our government to be most effective and for our country to thrive, those entrusted with public power must strive to act and speak with basic human decency. I recognize that basic human decency is a civic responsibility that transcends political party, ideology, and personal ambition.*

***I will strive to consistently meet the following standards:***

- ***Respect for All:*** *I will treat every person, including political opponents, with respect and dignity, regardless of their economic or social status, political party, religious affiliation or ideological beliefs. I will avoid rhetoric and conduct that demeans, dehumanizes, or needlessly inflames.*
- ***Integrity & Honesty:*** *I will be truthful and honor my commitments. I will to the best of my ability, support and defend the impartial application of the laws of the United States and will endeavor to avoid making decisions that are arbitrary or capricious.*
- ***Honor:*** *I will prioritize identifying and solving problems to improve the lives of my constituents. I will weigh the institutional and human impacts of my actions and will seek to avoid partisan obstruction that does not serve the public interest. I will not knowingly mistreat, exploit, or neglect the people I serve.*
- ***Humility & Accountability:*** *I commit to giving credit where credit is due, owning my mistakes, attempting to remedy any harm caused, and pursuing continuous improvement in my public conduct.*
- ***Responsible Affiliation:*** *I will exercise reasonable judgment to avoid unnecessary alignment with individuals or organizations whose conduct consistently violates the principles of basic human decency described above.*

*I pledge a sincere, good-faith effort to model these values in my public service in order to strengthen trust, improve the functioning of government, and support the health of our democracy.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office Held

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**AFTER SIGNING:** Email signed pledge to [info@decencyingov.org](mailto:info@decencyingov.org) and the person who asked you to sign.