

Memorandum

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS, CAMPAIGN WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

FROM: HON. EMILY KINKEAD, ESQ.
Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 20

DATE: April 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Transparency, Integrity and Public Service (Emily4PA)

Government and politics together with money and power attract corruption and misconduct.

As an elected official and candidate, what I do and say are on display to the public and the media 24/7. The same is true for you all as my staff and representatives. We all have to do more than comply with the law - we must act with the highest ethics and honesty. Always. No exceptions.

Elected officials owe “honest services” to their constituents. Federal mail and wire fraud laws make it a federal crime to defraud or intend to defraud constituents of this “intangible right.” This means bribery and kickbacks -- “honest services fraud” can lead to federal prison. State law in the Commonwealth also makes bribery a crime: to offer, confer or agree to confer, solicit, accept or agree to solicit “any pecuniary benefit in consideration for the ... exercise of discretion as a public servant, party official or voter...” There are other state and local laws and rules that affect “gratuities” and even campaign contributions that govern our conduct and actions in office and in campaigns. What we do matters: our actions and words have meaning.

The public trust is something we must value and protect. It requires extra effort to ensure that our deeds and our acts respect and are worthy of the trust. Minimal observance of the laws governing public officials and campaigns is not enough. We must act with the highest level of ethics and honesty at all times.

I did not run for office –and I do not serve as a legislator -- to take part in “back room” political deals. None of you would work for me or vote for me if I did. That is not the person our voters elected. What I ask of myself – and of each and every one of you – is to always act *Transparently, with Integrity and in Service of the Public.*

I respect and trust each of you and your good judgment. If something doesn’t feel right to you, let me or your supervisor know right away. If someone approaches and offers you something in your role in this Office or in our campaign at any time, come tell me. It is essential to document what happened, who was involved, where and when the event took place and who else might have witnessed it as soon as possible. Details are important in order to accurately determine what if anything should or must be done in response. Let’s take the time to think through *anything* you feel is suspicious, or disturbing or just plain unusual.

I try to earn your trust and respect all of the time. Together we earn the trust of our voters and constituents every day of the week. Let’s not let them down.