



Commitment to Nonprofit Causes and Public Service: The Means Matter as Much as the Ends (Part I) AB 1234 Self-Assessment Test

Instructions

Earn 1 hour of advanced AB 1234 credit by reading Commitment to Nonprofit Causes and Public Service: The Means Matter As Much as the Ends (Part I). Then take the attached self-assessment, choosing the best answer for each question.

Send the completed Part I test, completed form and payment (\$25) to:

Institute for Local Government
1400 K Street, Suite 301
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: AB 1234 Ethics Test

You will receive the correct answers and an AB 1234 certificate within four weeks.

Certification. The Institute for Local Government certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and Attorney General governing AB 1234 ethics education. This activity is eligible for 1 hour of credit for advanced AB 1234 ethics education for ethics principles and laws related to financial interests and perks.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The Institute only accepts checks, Visa or MasterCard as payment.

Form with fields: Name, Date Test(s) Taken, Total Test(s) Taken, Address, Cardholder Name, Credit Card Number, City/State/Zip, Card Expiration Date, 3 (or 4) digit Security #, Telephone, Authorized Signature. Includes checkboxes for Visa and MasterCard.

1. If a given course of action is legal, then it is automatically ethical.
 True False

2. As long as you know you are doing the right thing for the right reason, it doesn't matter what the public thinks
 True False

3. The key thing to keep in mind in terms of public service ethics is that the guiding principle for your decisions must be what best serves the overall public interest in your community.
 True False

4. Once one attains the status of being an elected official, one can pursue personal objectives like supporting favorite causes with public money.
 True False

5. The self-study materials advocate using rationalization as a tool for resolving ethical dilemmas.
 True False

6. The public's trust and confidence in both you and your agency is vital to your ability to lead and accomplish things in your community.
 True False

7. The appearance of ethical misconduct can have negative consequences for a public official even if no misconduct took place.
 True False

8. An official's relationship with a nonprofit public benefit corporation could never be perceived as a form of "back-door influence" on an agency's decision because by definition nonprofits do good things.
 True False

9. If one is legally able to vote, one should do so. This is true even if there could be a legitimate question in the minds of the public that a public official based his vote on something other than the public's interest.
- True False
10. In some communities, local officials resign their positions on nonprofit boards of directors to reduce concerns that that an official's decision may be affected by conflicting organizational loyalties.
- True False
11. Using one's official position to pressure someone to donate to a nonprofit violates state and federal laws prohibiting extortion and protecting the public's rights to public officials' honest services.
- True False
12. As long as a public official does not receive a personal financial benefit from seeking a charitable donation, one is safe from prosecution.
- True False
13. The disclosure requirements allow the total amount of charitable contributions in a given year to remain confidential as long as no single contribution exceeds \$5,000.
- True False
14. Lending your name to a charitable fundraising effort triggers the disclosure requirement even if you do not solicit donations yourself.
- True False
15. The goal of the disclosure requirement is to encourage the media and the public to support public officials' favorite causes.
- True False
16. Asking one's agency staff for contributions to support one's favorite causes is one of the prerogatives of being a public official.
- True False

17. If a 501(c)(3) nonprofit pays for your travel to attend a board meeting, the issue (in terms of gift limits and reporting) is whether you provide services of equal or greater value to that travel.

- True False

18. You serve on the board of a statewide advocacy organization that is not a 501(c)(3). They pay you \$300 as compensation for your expenses to travel to a board meeting.

a. Are these expenses reportable?

- Yes No

b. Are these expenses subject to the gift limit?

- Yes No

19. Personalized gestures like plaques worth \$250 or less do not have to be reported as either gifts or income.

- True False