

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT BEGINS........AT THE BALLOT BOX.

In any election, most citizens expect candidates and their campaign workers to conduct honest, fair and respectful campaigns that stick to the facts, focus on issues and explore relevant differences between candidates and positions.

This is one in a series on campaign ethics issues provided by the Torrance City Clerk to help residents develop practical skills to assess the ethics of a campaign and to encourage voters to hold candidates accountable at the ballot box for keeping campaign ethical.

No matter what route you take to making voting decision - make ethics part of your candidate selection criteria.

Voter Checklist for Evaluating Candidates

As best as you can tell, have the candidates you are favoring ...

- Told the truth about themselves?
- Focused on issues relevant to Torrance?
- Told truths about opponents that were important for the voters to know?
- Pointed out differences between themselves and opponents that are relevant to the political office?
- Treated opponents with dignity and respect?
- Fought fairly and avoided demeaning or irrelevant personal attacks?
- Never tried to confuse or mislead voters?
- Clearly identified who was behind any committee that is candidate controlled?
- Took responsibility for any mistakes they made or mistakes made by consultants or volunteers?
- Criticized unfair, dishonest or disrespectful attacks by committees not controlled by the candidate?