

Press Release

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Bill Corrigan Challenges Status Quo with Announcement of New Reforms, Code of Ethics *Corrigan: 'St. Louis County Government needs stronger leadership, greater accountability and more transparency.'*

St. Louis County - St. Louis County Executive candidate Bill Corrigan is not satisfied with the status quo in St. Louis County Government and today he unveiled a series of new reforms within a Code of Ethics that he would enact on his first day in office.

“All County officers and employees must be committed to transparency, honesty, fairness and accountability,” said Corrigan. “If I am elected County Executive next year, I will hold myself and my staff to the highest ethical standards by enacting a strict new Ethics Code for County government that will begin the moment I take office.”

Corrigan expressed his concern regarding the failure in leadership regarding the establishment and enforcement of high ethical standards in the County. “It’s imperative that the County Executive demonstrate strong leadership and set the example for a code of conduct and ensure that his staff lives by high ethical standards every day,” Corrigan explained. St. Louis County government needs a new direction, greater accountability and more transparency. That is why I am making this commitment to the people of our County. This Code is just one important step towards building confidence and restoring the integrity of our government.”

Greater Accountability

- Faithfully comply with all laws, ordinances, and rules.
- Evaluate all decisions for the County based on quality, fiscal responsibility and best interests of the citizens.
- Do not solicit or accept gifts or benefits.

Government service and public sector employment is a public trust, and those who serve the public as part of the government must discharge their duties and meet their responsibilities in such a manner that is consistent with the highest ethical standards, always keeping the best interests of St. Louis County and its citizenry in mind.

We need to nurture and promote small businesses and entrepreneurs by promoting and improving the usage of the County's three small business incubators, which are underutilized. We need to keep our large employers and corporate headquarters here by working to attract investment in St. Louis businesses. We need to focus on our strengths, like becoming the plant and life sciences center in the United States. We need collaborative leadership and a shared regional vision among the many municipalities in our

County. We need to work with the young business leaders. And we will work every day to recruit our nation's leading companies to St. Louis County.

Representative government is based upon the consent of the governed in a system where every citizen has a right to expect that those who have the privilege to govern or serve the government are not acting for themselves but rather for the citizenry as a whole. Since government can only act through its elected officials and employees, it is imperative that these individuals maintain the public trust at all times.

Improving Transparency

- Never use confidential information for profit or gain.
- Do not make private or personal promises that would compromise the public trust.
- Closely follow all Sunshine Laws, ethics codes and disclosure requirements.

All County Officers and Employees must be committed to honesty, fairness, accountability, transparency and customer service. They must conduct themselves in such a way as to build trust.

Fairness and Honesty

- Treat citizens fairly without special favors, privileges or discrimination.
- Do not knowingly mislead the public on matters of public trust.
- No appointed staff member shall solicit campaign contributions for any elected County official from County employees.

“On Day One as County Executive, I will enact this Code of Ethics as the official policy of my office and administration,” said Corrigan. “Recent headlines in the County together with the loss of the public’s trust in our present County government require robust reform. Under my administration, we will reform our present County government. This reform begins today with the signing of this Code of Ethics for St. Louis County.” Corrigan has heard from the people across the County who want greater accountability, transparency and integrity from their elected officials and the people appointed to hold taxpayer-paid positions. News reports over the past two weeks have many concerned regarding the activities inside the administration of current County Executive Charlie Dooley. Among the many concerns raised are the circumstances surrounding the resignation of one of Dooley's top aides, who it was reported had tax issues; ethical questions surrounding the activities of Dooley’s campaign treasurer; closed, off-site meetings allegedly held to discuss County business but which even the Dooley Administration has admitted could be seen as "political."

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