Ethics, Organization, & Personnel Committee

Monthly Ethics Education

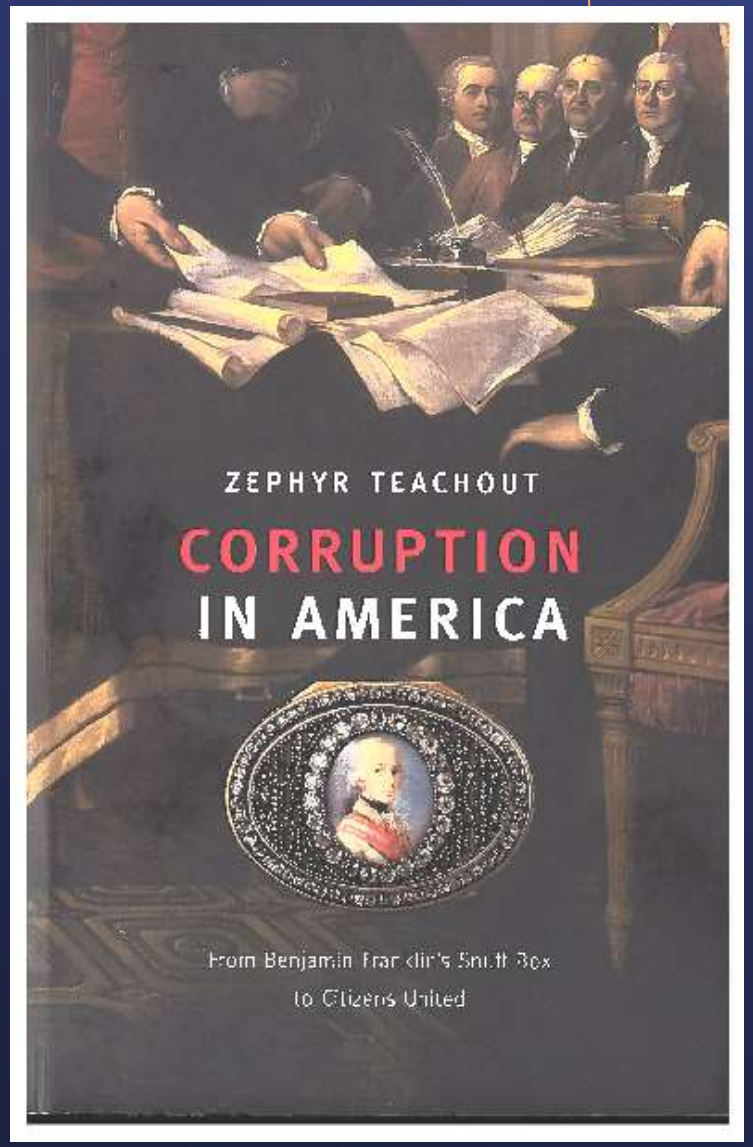
Item 6a

July 9, 2024

Item 6a
Monthly Ethics Education

Subject
Public Service

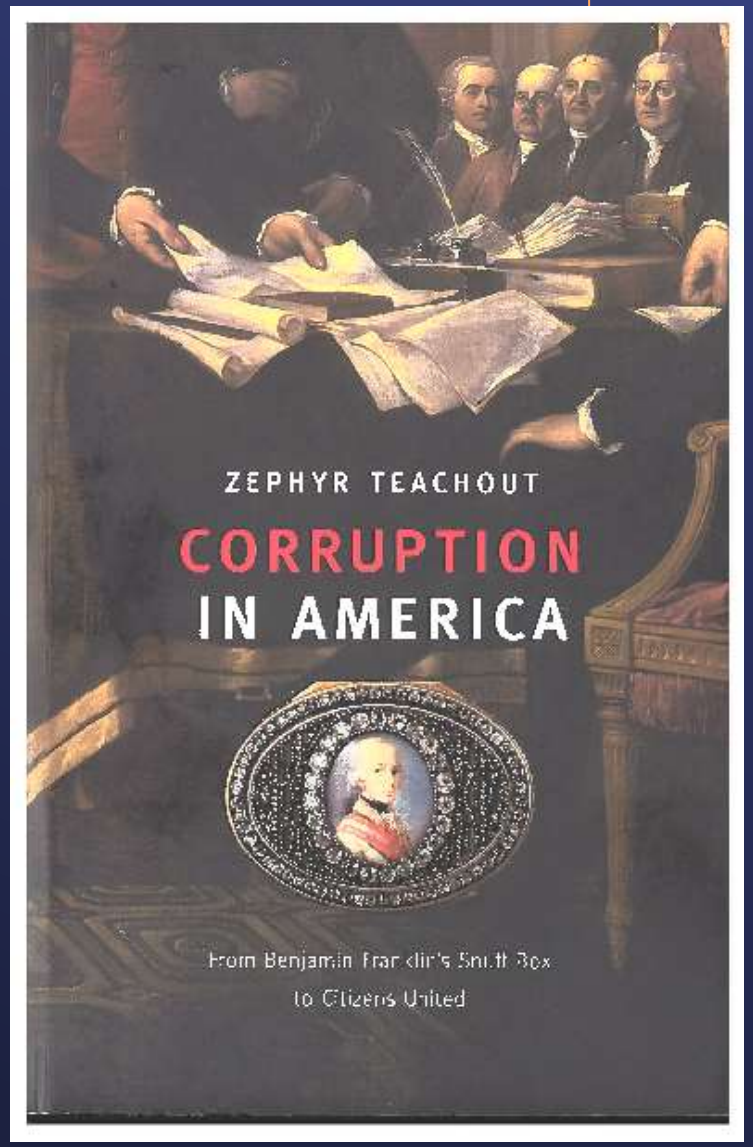
Purpose
To explore the meaning of ***public service*** in the context of an enterprise governmental entity



The Anticorruption Principle

Corruption describes a range of self-serving behaviors. Corruption is "abuse of public power for private benefit" or "those acts whereby private gain is made at public expense," or when private interest excessively overrides public or group interest in a significant or meaningful exercise of political power.

Page 276 [internal citations omitted]



The Anticorruption Principle

Some self-interest may be present, and few throughout history would deny the benefits of pride, power, ambition, attention, love, and adulation that can come with public office. But the anticorruption principle depends on the fact that despite these other concerns, it is valuable and possible to aspire to a society where those in government are concerned on a daily basis with the well-being of the public.

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Districtwide Ethics Training Slides

Integrity of Public Office

- Integrity of Public Office
- Executing official authority for the benefit of the public, not private self-interests
- Oath of Office

Districtwide Ethics Training Slides

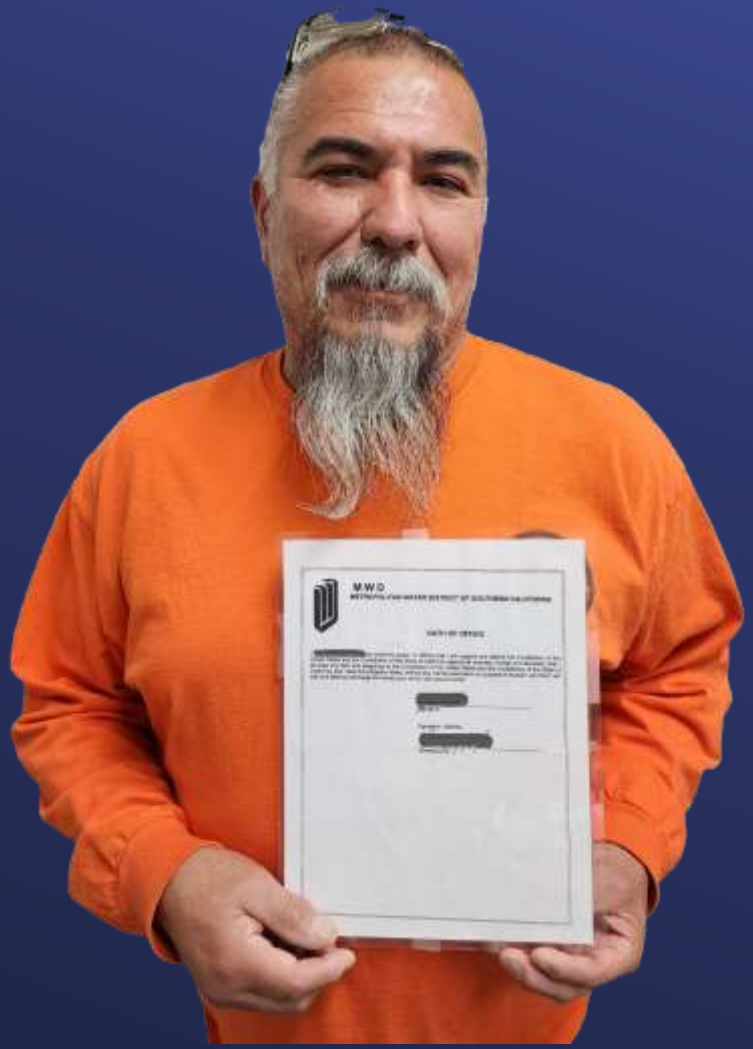
Districtwide Ethics Training Slides

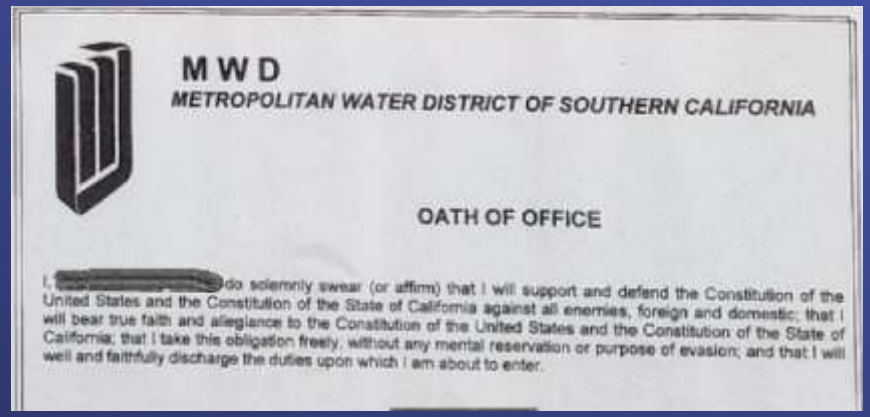
"Calling the Game"

Districtwide Ethics Training Slides

Water Development History

Public Service





MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

OATH OF OFFICE

I, [redacted] do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Online Identity

Ceremonial Oaths of Office

Federal Bureau of Investigation trainees take their oath to become Special Agents during a graduation ceremony at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, on Oct. 30, 2008. Saul Loeb / AFP - Getty Images File

Final Thoughts

Embracing the natural tensions between transparency and self-protection

- Organizational independence
- Separation of functions
  - Limiting liability
  - Public disclosure

Final Thoughts

Entrusting and empowering the Ethics Office

- Professionalism
- Impartiality
- Consistency “without fear or favor”

Final Thoughts

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928