

## **Governing by obeying**

### Code of political ethics

This document is intended to be a step forward in carrying out the democratic revolution we need in our area.

It comprises a code of practice and concrete actions that people holding elected and appointed political positions must respect in order for the political system to be responsible and responsive to citizens, and for there to be effective, democratic financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and genuine opportunities for citizens to participate in, and make decisions regarding, public policies.

It also includes a range of commitments and measures with the aim of guaranteeing that everyone can dedicate the necessary time to public service and, at the same time, putting an end to the privileges that much of the political class has enjoyed for years, and which have led them to be seriously out of touch with the needs of citizens.

This commitment to political ethics is based on the trust and commitment that this candidature wants to have in people who hold public office. It should also serve as a support, oversight and accountability mechanism for their work.

People who hold public office under the mandate of this code of ethics commit to seek the necessary legal

instruments and mechanisms to make these principles compulsory for everyone in the municipal administration.

This code of ethics aims to be flexible, dynamic and concise. The candidature will work on regulations that concretize and put into practice the principles contained within it.

The principles included in this code of ethics are binding to everyone who holds elected or appointed office or management positions as part of the candidature, whether in the Barcelona City Council or other public or semi-public metropolitan institutions in which the City Council participates financially, or in any other public policy-making institution.

They commit to:

Defend and uphold the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in all areas of our society, politics and institutions.

# 1.- Democratization of political representation, auditing and accountability

1.1.- Uphold the electoral manifesto of the candidature. Act as representatives who are obligated to act in line with the decisions made through democratic processes that the candidature opens up to the public, promoting the joint responsibility of all men and women.

1.2.- Make public their diary of appointments so that we know whom they are meeting with and the issues discussed. Make meeting agendas and minutes public.

1.3- Make public all of their income sources, wealth and capital gains, as well as all information necessary to detect potential conflicts of interest and to carry out citizen audits. This commitment is applicable to the three years following their exit from public office.

1.4.- Make public the criteria used to select people for appointed office.

1.5 - Be accountable to citizens for their actions both in assemblies and online in ways that are democratic and open to all interested sectors and geographical areas (the whole city, neighbourhoods or districts). Information should always be presented as usable open data.

1.6 - Accept the censure or dismissal of councilmen and women and political appointees for poor management, or for a flagrant, unjustified failure to implement the manifesto. In order to make this possible, guarantee and evaluation mechanisms for people holding public office in the name of the candidature will be established. Citizens will have the right and the responsibility to actively participate in the oversight of the work of public office holders to ensure that this principle is carried out effectively and honestly.

1.7 - Not accept, for a period of a least 5 years after leaving office, positions of responsibility in companies created, regulated, supervised by, or beneficiaries of municipal contracts in the area or sector in which they have

acted as representatives. They should never take on board positions in such companies.

1.8 - Keep in regular contact with vulnerable groups, dedicate the necessary space in their agenda to listen and respond to their proposals, and take administration reports on these groups into account when making decisions.

1.9 - Guarantee citizen participation in relevant decision-making and in the political positioning of the candidature on strategic issues and projects with a social, environmental or urban planning impact on the city, districts of neighbourhoods, applying the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity. Anyone who holds elected or appointed office commits to promote and support all citizen initiatives within existing legal frameworks or through the structure of the candidature (at neighbourhood, district or city level).

## 2. - Financing, transparency and expenditure management:

The candidature commits to:

2.1- Be transparent in its management, publishing disaggregated data on income and spending, which it will manage with socially responsible economic institutions.

2.1. - Set a maximum limit on private donations.

2.2.- Explicitly refuse to accept bank loans and donations from individuals that could compromise the political independence of the candidature. The candidature will explicitly commit to work with ethical banking institutions to ensure its independence and to uphold the values in its manifesto.

2.3 – Clearly back drastic limits on election campaign spending.

2.4.- Promote goal-based crowdfunding, that is, small crowdfunding initiatives aimed at carrying out specific actions or covering specific needs.

2.5- Not use foundations or entities, which may have different goals to the candidature, in order to obtain financing using mechanisms that are not transparent.

2.6. Introduce effective administrative and legal sanctions to tackle irregular financing activities.

2.7.- The candidature make use of its financing in a way that is consistent with this code of ethics and its values, allocating goal-based funds aimed at strengthening civil society associations (without generating dependency or clientalism).

## 3.- Professionalization of politics, the reduction of privileges and measures to tackle corruption:

Those in elected, managerial and appointed office commit to:

3.1.- Renounce any gifts and privileges that are offered to them by virtue of their office and which could result in preferential treatment.

3.2.- Not take on multiple public posts, other than those linked to their role as councilmen or women.

3.3.- Not earn multiple salaries or charge extra fees for attending meetings.

3.4.- Set a maximum monthly net salary of 2,200 Euros, including expenses, in the understanding that this amount guarantees decent conditions in which to carry out the responsibilities and tasks of the office. This salary will be adjusted in line with responsibilities.

3.5.- Limit their term of office to two consecutive legislatures, which can be extended to three in exceptional circumstances, subject to a process of citizen debate and approval.

3.6- Resign or be dismissed immediately from all posts if charged with crimes related to corruption, profit from malfeasance, influence peddling, unjust enrichment using public or private resources, bribery, embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, either for their own benefit or for that of third parties. The same commitment applies to charges for crimes of racism, xenophobia, violence, homophobia or other crimes against human rights or labour rights.

3.7.- Carry out a good handover of information and knowledge (without charge), following the protocol agreed by the candidature. [22]

The candidature commits to:

3.8.- Support people in the transition between the workforce and politics, establishing support mechanisms for former elected officials during their return to the workforce in the case that they do not find work.

3.9.- Develop mechanisms to support the combination of family life and politics.

## Additional provisions:

Transitional provision 1. The regulations governing the code of ethics should include mechanisms to ensure its implementation and specify procedures for its amendment.

Transitional provision 2. The issue of how to spend the candidature's financial resources remains to be included in the code.

Transitional provision 3. The conditions under which direct and binding consultations will be held remains to be defined.

## Bibliography

This document has been drawn up by **Guanyem Barcelona** using written material and debates on political ethics and municipal politics that have taken place over the course of two months with different political forces. This document has been drafted using different documents contributed by friends from:

- The **Trobada Popular Municipalista**, particularly **this document**; and the **CUP**
- **ICV**, using their **statutes** and *Decàleg contra la corrupció*; and **EUiA**, using their *Carta Financera i la Carta Ètica*
- **Podem**
- **Partit X**, using their *Obligaciones de gobiernos y ciudadanos* and *Condiciones del eurodiputado*
- **Parlament Ciutadà**
- **ANOVA**
- **Bildu**
- **Procés Constituent**, using their *Per un municipalisme constituent*
- **Guanyem Barcelona**, using our *Principles and commitments to guide the way*