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The Authenticity Dilemma: Reconciling Your Public and Private Self

#ICMA2018
Why talk about authenticity?

In public service, we are challenged to

• Deny self
• Adapt to the style of others
• Convene opposing voices
• Find common ground

Who am I and how do I fit?

Advice: Be yourself
Develop your own style
Who am I?

Not defined by

- What I do for a living
- Where I grew up
- My gender
- My first language
- My skin color
- My name
Who am I?

I define who I am by

- Confidence in my principles
- How I invest my time and talents
- How others are better because of me
What have I been doing about it?
Was staying myself worthwhile?

Authenticity is *key* to earning trust.

Elected officials, staff, and community members see me as a real person.
- Competent professional
- Authentic person
- Truly care about the people we all serve
How do you want to be remembered?

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

-- Maya Angelou