

ETHICS

■ ETHICS INQUIRIES

IS IT ETHICAL TO WARN CANDIDATES OF THIS SCARY SITUATION?

Q. After the county administrator was forced to resign, the board of supervisors advertised her position for a lower salary than is paid to the department directors and to the administrative assistant, all of whom report to the county administrator.

Other county and city managers in the state are concerned about this situation and the fact that a strong movement is under way in this county to recall some of the elected officials. Should they put the facts out on the statewide discussion list and offer to answer questions? Or should they simply respond to calls from people who do their homework and contact them for advice?

A. Under these circumstances, it is appropriate for the state leadership to post a message on the statewide discussion list and to offer to answer questions about the compensation

and the current environment in the county. In addition, it is appropriate to contact the county elected officials directly to offer advice on the pay and qualifications that will attract good candidates.