



CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES GUIDE

If you need advice on a particular situation please contact LOGCOM Office of Counsel at (229) 639-7098 or by email at [Office of Counsel](#) to set up an appointment with one of the attorneys.

References: JER DOD 5500.7-R; CFR § 734
SAF/GCA Pamphlet

This handout provides a brief overview of regulations for participating in political activities as a Civilian Federal Government employee. The separation between political activities and the Federal Government is even more crucial when involving the Armed Forces because of the need for public confidence in civilian control over the military.

What is a political activity?

It is an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or a partisan political group.

Partisan vs. Nonpartisan

Partisan activities relate to candidates or issues representing national or state political parties. Candidacy for national or state office is partisan, even if the candidate is not affiliated with a national or state political party. Partisan activities are more restricted than nonpartisan activities

Nonpartisan activities are not associated with a national or state political party but involve “stand alone” political issues, such as constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances, etc. Employees have more leeway with these activities as long as they:
Refrain from using Government facilities and/or resources
Avoid any implication that the Armed Forces endorses or supports their participation in the activity

Guidelines for Federal Employees

Following is a list of guidelines for Federal Employees covered under the Hatch Act.

Civilian Federal Employees May:

1. Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections;
2. Register and vote as they choose;
3. Assist in voter registration drives, drive voters to a polling place, and act as a recorder, watcher or challenger at a polling place;
4. Serve as election judge or clerk;
5. Express opinions about candidates and issues;
6. Display a political sign, sticker, button, etc. but not while on duty, in a government office, or using a government vehicle
7. Contribute money to political organizations;
8. Attend political fundraising functions;
9. Join and be an active member of a political party or club, or even manage a political campaign or circulate nominating petitions;
10. Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments and municipal ordinances;
11. Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections;
12. Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;

13. Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections;
14. Hold office in political clubs or parties, including serving as a delegate to a convention.

Civilian Federal Employees Should Avoid:

1. Using their official authority to interfere with an election;
2. Soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same Federal labor organization or employee organization, and the one solicited is not a subordinate;
3. Knowingly soliciting or discouraging the political activity of any person who has business before the agency;
4. Engaging in political activity while on duty;
5. Engaging in political activity in any government office;
6. Engaging in political activity while wearing an official uniform;
7. Engaging in political activity while using a government vehicle;
8. Becoming a candidate for public office in partisan elections;
9. Wearing political buttons while on duty.
10. Host or sponsor a political fundraiser (although you may attend it, and your spouse may host the fundraiser.)