

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Political Do's and Don'ts for Civilians

1. **PURPOSE.** To explain permissible and impermissible political activities by federal civilian employees.
2. **EXAMPLES OF PERMISSIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY.** A civilian employee may—
 - a. Be a member and officer of a political party.
 - b. Attend and participate in a political convention, caucus, or rally.
 - c. Serve as a delegate to a political party convention.
 - d. Display a political sign, sticker, button, or similar material, but not while on duty, in a Government office or building, or using a Government vehicle.
 - e. Endorse or oppose a candidate in a political advertisement, broadcast, or campaign literature.
 - f. Address a political convention, caucus, or rally on behalf of a candidate.
 - g. Manage a political campaign.
 - h. Display a political bumper sticker on his/her private vehicle.
 - i. Distribute campaign literature off-post.
 - j. Vote.
 - k. Act as a recorder, watcher, or challenger at a polling place.
 - l. Serve as an election judge or clerk.
 - m. Drive voters to a polling place.
 - n. Run for non-partisan office.
 - o. Make a political contribution subject to the limitations in 2 U.S.C. §441a and 18 U.S.C. §607.
 - p. Attend, address, or be a featured guest at a political fundraiser (but cannot solicit contributions).
 - q. Solicit or receive uncompensated volunteer services (except from subordinates or anyone with official matters before DOD).

r. Manage or organize a political fundraiser hosted or sponsored by others (but may host/sponsor a fundraiser or personally solicit contributions).

3. **EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.** A civilian employee will not—

a. Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election.

b. Solicit, accept, or receive political contributions.

c. Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency.

d. Engage in political activity while on duty, in any government office, while wearing an official uniform, or while using a government vehicle.

e. Be a candidate for public office in partisan elections.

f. Wear political buttons on duty.

g. Display any political signs, buttons, or literature in any Federal office or building.

h. Use or allow use of his/her official title.

4. **CONCLUSION.** This information paper due to space limitations is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of the do's and don'ts. Any questions may be referred to the Ethics Counselor at 221-2373/0485.

Ethics Counselor/1-2373/0485