

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

POLICY

It is the policy of the Board to ensure compliance with all statutes related to partisan political activity. There are laws and rules that apply to the permissibility of various election-related activities of classified versus unclassified employees. Employees who are in the classified service are significantly limited, by law, in their ability to engage in various partisan political activities at any time, particularly elections involving candidates selected by the political parties. Employees in the classified service consist of those employees not specifically included in the unclassified service (i.e, the Superintendent or management employees). Political activity refers to partisan activities, campaigns, and elections involving primaries, partisan ballots, or partisan candidates. Classified employees (Section 3.01 (A.) (1.) may participate in select political activities but are prohibited by Section 123:1-46-2 of the OAC and Section 124.57 of the ORC from engaging in others.

The following are examples of permissible activities for employees in the classified service:

1. Registration and voting;
2. Expression of opinions, either oral or written;
3. Voluntary financial contributions to political candidates or organizations;
4. Circulation of nonpartisan petitions or petitions stating views on legislation;
5. Attendance at political rallies;
6. Signing nominating petitions in support of individuals;
7. Display of political materials in the employee's home or on the employee's property;
8. Wearing political badges or buttons, displaying political stickers on private vehicles; and
9. Serving as a precinct election officer under Section 3501.22 of the ORC.

An employee in the classified service who engages in any of the below activities is subject to removal from his or her position in the classified service. The following are examples of prohibited activities for employees in the classified service:

1. Candidacy for public office in a partisan election;
2. Candidacy for public office in a nonpartisan general election if the nomination to candidacy was obtained in a partisan primary or through the circulation of nominating petitions identified with a political party;
3. Filing of petitions meeting statutory requirements for partisan candidacy to elective office;
4. Circulation of official nominating petitions for any candidate participating in a partisan election;
5. Service in an elected or appointed office in any partisan political organization;
6. Acceptance of party-sponsored appointment to any office normally filled by partisan election;
7. Campaigning by writing for publications, by distributing political material, or by writing or making speeches on behalf of a candidate for partisan elective office, when such activities are directed toward party success;

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8. Solicitation, either directly or indirectly, if any assessment, contribution or subscription, either monetary or in-kind, for any political party or for any candidate for public office;
9. Solicitation of the sale, or actual sale, of political party tickets;
10. Partisan activities in the election polls, such as solicitation of votes for other than nonpartisan candidates and nonpartisan issues;
11. Service as, witness or challenger for any party or partisan committee;
12. Participation in political caucuses of a partisan nature; and
13. Participation in a political action committee which supports partisan activity.

Employees in the unclassified service (i.e., Superintendents and management employees as defined in Ohio Revised Code 5126.20) are not prohibited from engaging in political activity, unless specifically precluded by law.

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