

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Edison State Community College Employees for participation in political activities.

POLICY STATEMENT

Edison State Community College employees are encouraged to fully and freely exercise their constitutional right to vote, as well as express their personal opinions regarding political candidates and issues to the extent permitted by law. However, as employees of a public tax-exempt institution, there are restrictions on exercising these rights, as delineated in this policy and applicable laws and regulations.

College employees are free to express political opinions; however, such expression cannot imply official College endorsement, sanction, or action. Employees shall not place political activity stickers, banners, flyers or literature on College bulletin boards, in and on College buildings, or on any College property. No College letterhead or insignia shall be used in any political activity. Employees shall not use any College worktime, facilities, email, faxes, copiers, support services, resources, equipment or services for political activity. College employees may in their capacity as private citizens and outside of their College worktime and duties, express opinions on matters of political, social or other public concerns, provided that the expressed opinions do not suggest College endorsement.

Whether a faculty or administrative staff member may hold a non-College elected or appointed position is dependent upon the compatibility of the two positions involved. Service in an appointed or elected position is prohibited when such position is subordinate to or in any way a check upon a position concurrently occupied by the employee, or when it is physically impossible for one person to discharge the duties of both positions, or if some specific constitutional or statutory bar exists prohibiting a person from serving both positions. Employees should contact the office of human resources for information on running or holding public office.

Classified Employees

Ohio Revised Code §124.57 prohibits classified employees from engaging in certain political activities, including soliciting or receiving political contributions for any political party, for any candidate for public office, or from any officer of employee in the classified service of the state. Classified employees are also prohibited from participating in certain partisan activities as set forth in Ohio Administrative Code §123:1-46-02, these partisan activities include but are not limited to:

- Candidacy for public office in a partisan election.
- 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.
- Circulation of official nominating petitions for any candidate participating in a partisan election.
- Service in an elected or appointed office in any partisan political organization.
- Acceptance of a party-sponsored appointment to any office normally filled by partisan elections.
- 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.
- Participation in a political action committee which supports partisan activity.

See Ohio Administrative Code §123:1-46-02 for a complete list of applicable rules regarding political activity affecting the above employees.

PERSONS AFFECTED

All Employees of Edison State Community College.