



Discover a World of Opportunity™

To: ALL EMPLOYEES
From: DPS OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
Subject: RULES FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATED TO ELECTIONS

This guide is for district employees to help understand how they can be involved in political campaigns for the upcoming election. Colorado's Fair Campaign Practices Act ("the FCPA") prohibits public employees from certain activities in connection with ***candidates and ballot issue campaigns***. In order to make sure we are all following this law, please review the requirements below. This is particularly relevant this year with Amendment 73 on the ballot in November. You can find additional information on the Amendment 73 ballot measure [here](#).

School District Employees can contribute their personal funds and services and can voice their own opinions on issues/candidates during their personal time. For example, outside of work and during your personal time, employees can:

1. Canvas and knock on doors.
2. Attend and advocate at rallies and marches.
3. Share information on social media.
4. Write letters to your local newspapers and online media.
5. Fundraise for campaigns.

School District Employees may during work time:

1. Respond to unsolicited questions regarding candidates or a ballot issue. The answer should give facts, if they are available, not opinion or speculation, and should not urge a particular vote.
2. With the consent of your school leader, sponsor debates on ballot issues and/or candidate(s) for educational purposes.
3. With the consent of your school leader, host a candidate forum to allow students to hear from candidates or ballot initiative proponents and opponents. Again, if you choose to do so, you must ensure that all candidates are invited and that all are given an equal opportunity to present their views.
4. With the consent of your school leader, permit groups to distribute campaign materials outside school buildings, or at school events or activities. Such distribution may not disrupt school operations or interfere with student safety or the educational environment. Generally, the distribution of campaign materials should be conducted off of school grounds so that student safety and the educational environment are not jeopardized. An equal opportunity should be provided to all candidates and ballot issues in a viewpoint neutral fashion.

School District Employees cannot:

1. Use or expend district funds or supplies to support or oppose any ballot issue or candidate.
2. Grant an employee leave from his or her job or office with the district, with pay, to work on a

campaign.

3. Send campaign materials home with students or ask students to work on a campaign to support or oppose a ballot issue or candidate.
4. Allow or direct employees to assist directly or indirectly on a campaign during working hours. Work time includes any time that the employee is performing a duty at the office, a school, school activity (e.g. football game, parent night), etc.
5. Use school printing and copying facilities, email, school mailboxes, telephones, bulk-mailing permits, or other district equipment or resources to advocate in favor of or against a ballot issue or candidate.
6. Use district websites or social media sites such as a school's Facebook page to support or oppose a ballot issue or candidate, publish candidate or ballot measure campaign materials, or link to candidate or campaign-sponsored websites.
7. Provide transportation or advertising that utilizes public property or funds for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage or defeat of a ballot issue or candidate.
8. Collect money from colleagues at work in support of a candidate or ballot issue.
9. Distribute campaign literature at the office, a school, on school grounds or at school- sponsored activities or events.
10. Distribute or permit students, employees, parents, or parent-school entities to distribute campaign materials or engage in campaign activities during the course of the regular school day within the school building or at school-sponsored activities.
11. Wear t-shirts, campaign buttons, or display other such campaign materials on school grounds during the course of the school day or at school-sponsored activities.

Questions about these guidelines may be directed to the General Counsel's Office at (720) 423-3393 or electronically to Toni_Wehman@dpsk12.org.

Thank you for helping us follow the Fair Campaign Practices Act!