Legal Guidelines for Political Activities

For the purposes of these guidelines, “public resources” includes money, but also includes items paid for with public funds like staff time, materials, equipment, facilities and the use of district communications channels, such as the district and school websites, email system, staff mailboxes, automated call system, School Loop system and newsletter.

Activities on School Campus

What are the restrictions for district employees or potential candidates engaging in political activities on school grounds?

During working hours (including after school functions), school district employees, potential school board candidates, and those working on their behalf may not engage in political activities on school campuses.

(Continued...)
Political Messages and Materials

Can political materials be displayed or distributed at schools?

Political information should not be displayed or distributed via schools. For this reason, no campaign material may be displayed or distributed to students or parents via schools. (California Teachers Assn. v. Governing Board (1996) 45 Cal.App.4th 1383, 1388-1392; 77 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 56, 63-64 (1994))

Personal Time

Can a district employee encourage family or friends to vote a certain way?

Yes, district employees may engage in political activity as private citizens, as long as the activity does not involve the use of public funds. When doing so, board members and employees should make it clear they are acting on their own behalf and on their own time. (Education Code § 7052)

Resources

Information and election resources are available on the following websites:

http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
http://www.elections.saccounty.net

Additional Questions

If you have questions or if situations arise that are not covered by these guidelines, please contact Director of Communications Zenobia Gerald, 916-566-1789.

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