

4.15 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

A. Political Activity

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 123:1-46-02 of the OAC](#) and [Section 124.57](#) of the O.R.C. from engaging in others.

B. Permissible Activities

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 official under [Section 3501.22](#) of the O.R.C.

C. Prohibited Activities

Employees in the classified service, found to engage in any of the following prohibited activities are subject to corrective action, up to and including termination. 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 a 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;
- ~~8. Directly or indirectly, orally or by letter, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political party or for any candidate for public office;~~
- ~~9. Directly or indirectly, orally or by letter, solicit, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting, any such assessment, contribution, or payment from any officer or employee in the classified service of the state, the several counties, cities, or city school districts of the state, or the civil service townships of the state;~~
- ~~10. Be an officer in any political organization;~~



8. Solicitation, either directly or indirectly, of any assessment, contribution or subscription, either monetary or in-kind, for any political party or political candidate;
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;
13. Participation in a political action committee which supports partisan activity; and
- ~~14. Take part in politics other than to vote as the employee pleases and to express freely political opinions.~~

D. Unclassified Employees

Employees in the unclassified service, who serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority are not prohibited from engaging in political activity, unless specifically precluded by law.

