



## The Hatch Act: Use of Official Social Media Accounts by District Agencies

The Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) provides advice, training, and enforcement of the Local Hatch Act. The following is a list of questions about agencies' use of official social media accounts. Please note that although BEGA refers to Facebook and Twitter, the advice provided is applicable to any social media platform.

(1) *Q: May a District agency have a Facebook or Twitter account that includes information or links to information about a partisan group or candidate in a partisan race?*

**A:** No. A District agency's Facebook or Twitter account, like its official website, should be limited to official business matters and remain politically neutral. Thus, an agency's social media account should not "friend," "like," "follow," "tweet," or "retweet" about a partisan group or candidate in a partisan race or link to the social media accounts of such entities.

(2) *Q: May a District agency post a news article about the speech of an agency official at a political event for a candidate in a partisan race on the agency's Facebook or Twitter account?*

**A:** No. Any information or links to information about an agency official's attendance or speech at a political event for a candidate in a partisan race should not be posted on the agency's Facebook or Twitter account.

(3) *Q: May a District agency continue to "friend," "like," or "follow" an official social media page of a government official after he has become a candidate for reelection?*

**A:** Yes. For example, an agency may continue to "friend," "like," or "follow" the official government Facebook or Twitter account of a Council member or the Mayor, even after the elected official begins his reelection campaign.